



SCORP

2014 South Carolina State Comprehensive
Outdoor Recreation Plan

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

2014

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The main cover photo of this publication is Hunting Island State Park and the back cover is Table Rock State Park.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	i
LIST OF FIGURES, CHARTS AND TABLES	i
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
I. INTRODUCTION	4
II. STATE PROFILE	7
A. GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE	7
B. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE	10
C. ECONOMIC PROFILE	17
D. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION	18
E. RECREATION RESOURCES	20
F. GRANT RESOURCES	34
III. 2008 SCORP ACCOMPLISHMENTS	38
IV. STATE OUTDOOR RECREATION GOALS	47
V. SCORP PLANNING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS	50
VI. SCORP ACTION PLAN	52

LIST OF FIGURES, CHARTS AND TABLES

<u>FIGURES</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Figure 1. South Carolina Surface Water	8
Figure 2. South Carolina Planning Districts and MSAs	11
Figure 3. South Carolina Population Change by County, 2000-2010	13
Figure 4. South Carolina Total Population by County, 2010	14
Figure 5. Percentage of Overweight and Obese in South Carolina	17
Figure 6. South Carolina State Park Service Facilities	22
Figure 7. South Carolina Wetlands	34

<u>CHARTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Chart 1. America's Great Outdoors: Goals	6
Chart 2. 2008 SCORP Goals	38
Chart 3. Outdoor Recreation Guiding Policy and Planning Principles	52

TABLES**PAGE**

Table 1.	Major Reservoirs in South Carolina	9
Table 2.	South Carolina Population by MSA	12
Table 3.	South Carolina Population by Regional Planning Area	12
Table 4.	South Carolina Population by Age	15
Table 5.	South Carolina Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2005, 2010	15
Table 6.	Percentage of Adults who were Overweight or Obese by County 2010	16
Table 7.	Popular South Carolina Public Trails	24
Table 8.	Summary of Grants Funded by the SC Conservation Bank, FY 2004-2014	26
Table 9.	South Carolina Land Trust Network	27
Table 10.	Important Wetlands in South Carolina	32
Table 11.	Deferred Maintenance Projects	46
Table 12.	SCORP Acronyms	54



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *2014 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) is South Carolina's official outdoor recreation plan which serves as a guide to various Federal, State and local governmental agencies and the private sector entities involved in recreation and natural resources planning and development. The purpose of the Plan is to consider outdoor recreation issues relating to the needs of both residents and visitors to South Carolina, examine the State's recreational resources, analyze demand for recreational opportunities, develop an implementation program to address the identified needs and issues, identify funding opportunities, and identify issues of national importance. The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) is the designated agency responsible for outdoor recreation planning in the State to include the update of the SCORP every five years.

The SCORP process provides an opportunity for a variety of agencies and organizations to communicate upcoming projects, leverage limited resources, and coordinate activities. The SCORP is used as a guide for distribution of State recreation grant funds such as the *Parks and Recreation Development (PARD) Fund*. The SCORP meets the National Park Service requirements for a state plan and serves as the planning document for the disbursement of South Carolina's share of the Federal *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)*, administered by the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior, and as a guide for the distribution of the *Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Fund*. The Plan is also used by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the USDA Forest Service, SCPRT, the SC Department of Natural Resources, and other State, regional and local agencies and organizations to identify recreation usage patterns and needs.

South Carolina's diverse geography and wealth of natural resources play an integral role in shaping the State's growth patterns and its appeal as a recreational and tourist destination. Climate influences the quality and accessibility of outdoor recreational activities in the state. Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Blue Ridge Mountains, the State enjoys relatively favorable weather conditions. The State's climate offers long summers and mild winters providing year-round recreational opportunities. South Carolina benefits from an abundant supply of water in the form of lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and aquifers. This water supply has contributed to the development and growth of the State's economy, particularly its tourism industry. South Carolinians and tourists to the State enjoy 190 miles of coastline. The coastal beaches are the State's greatest single attraction among the various natural, historic, and man-made recreational resources and are the focal point of the State's travel and tourism industry.

South Carolina has experienced steady population growth over the past four decades and is currently the 12th fastest growing state in the nation. The state's population has become increasingly urbanized, with 66.3% of the State now classified as urban. Projections for population and economic growth over the next decade point to continued double digit increases in many areas of the State. Population growth has been accompanied by a rise in the median age of State residents. The median age of South Carolinians in 2010 was 37.9 years, a substantial increase from the median age of 32 years in 1990.

South Carolina has also experienced heightened economic growth over the last few decades. Tourism activity has evolved into a major economic asset for the state. South Carolina hosts approximately 29.5 million domestic visitors each year for a total of 107.3 million visitor days. South Carolina hosts nearly 1 million international visitors annually. Of these international visitors to the State, the majority (93%) is from Canada and 7% are from elsewhere, primarily Europe. The economic impact of tourism in South Carolina is significant and growing, with travel and tourism expenditures and investments providing \$11.1 billion in economic activity in 2012 – a growth of 4.6% from 2011.

Outdoor recreation plays an integral, yet largely untapped, role in South Carolina's burgeoning tourism industry. Annually, more than 11 million visitors to South Carolina participate in some form of outdoor recreation during their trip. Coupled with heritage and cultural tourism, outdoor recreation offers significant economic development opportunities for all regions of the State, especially its rural, inland communities.

While the State has many advantages, it also faces many challenges. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) reported in 2010 that South Carolina had the 14th worst overweight or obesity rate in the nation and that 67.4% of South Carolina adults were overweight or obese (BMI > 25). The numbers for youth are not any better in that 31.7% of South Carolina high school students are overweight or obese. Studies show that obese adolescents have a 70% chance of becoming overweight or obese adults. Rankings from other sources, such as the America's Health Ranking from the United Health Foundation (2012), also give South Carolina relatively low marks on indicators such as those for overall health and for obesity. In sum, the citizens, especially the youth, of South Carolina are becoming more overweight which will result in major health problems if not addressed.

Outdoor recreation can play a key role in addressing some of the public health challenges faced by the State. South Carolina is home to a variety of outdoor recreational resources ranging from public lands and facilities provided by Federal, State and local governments to private facilities and properties open to the public or for exclusive use through ownership or lease. Demand for recreational opportunities continues to grow as the State's population grows, as more residents and visitors expand interest and usage, and as residents and visitors alike seek new activities.

Publicly-owned recreation facilities in South Carolina range from national forests, national parks and state parks, to local parks and single purpose facilities such as boat access ramps. The 47 state parks operated by the State Park Service comprise more than 80,000 acres. Activities and events vary at each park but commonly include a combination of natural or historical attractions, camping, lodging, picnicking, interpretive and educational programs, swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, equestrian trails, playgrounds, biking, or community buildings. These park properties contribute to the State's protected base of natural and historic areas, providing South Carolinians with public access to diverse outdoor experiences that are representative of the State's rich base of natural, cultural and historic resources. In addition to state parks, South Carolina offers a number of scenic rivers, state forests, heritage preserves, wildlife management areas, trails and greenways, scenic highways, national forests, and national parks that provide significant outdoor recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors.

Under the current SCORP plan, the State has realized a number of achievements related to the goals of providing the people of South Carolina and its visitors with a balanced and comprehensive recreation system; providing South Carolinians and visitors opportunities to understand and enjoy the State's historic and natural heritage; providing all segments of the population opportunities for outdoor recreation experiences and an improved quality of life; encouraging cooperative efforts between various agencies and levels of government, between private enterprise and government, and between volunteers and resource managers; and encouraging sustainable development.

But it also faced some serious challenges in working toward these goals. Between 2008 and 2012 South Carolina experienced record unemployment, unprecedented budget cuts, and staff reductions at the state level. Cuts at the state level were mirrored in counties and municipalities as a result of reductions in the state's aid to local subdivisions. As a result, already serious problems with deferred maintenance and aging infrastructure in the State's many parks and recreation facilities were only compounded and new projects were delayed or down-sized. Addressing the existing deferred maintenance projects in the 47 State Parks is substantial and is a reflection of the deferred maintenance issue for Park and Recreation Departments across the State.

Given the current recreational needs and resources in the State, three main goals have been identified in the 2014 SCORP:

- (1) **Promote Healthy Lifestyles and Communities** - Outdoor recreation, parks, and their associated amenities help keep South Carolinians and their communities fit and healthy. While the connection between health and outdoor recreation seems apparent, public health professionals and outdoor recreation providers have not always coordinated their efforts. South Carolina remains one of the top ten most obese states in the country. In 1996, South Carolina had a combined obesity and overweight rate of 51.4%. In 2001, it was 57.4%. Now, the combined rate is 66.4%. Parks build healthy communities by creating stable neighborhoods and strengthening community development. We have not only the opportunity to impact the overall health of our state, but an obligation.
- (2) **Stewardship of Resources** - Conserving South Carolina's natural and recreational resources will be a vital component of outdoor recreation planning for the next decade. The state's "green infrastructure" not only protects the physical characteristics of South Carolina's unique diversity of natural resources, but if utilized correctly, can be a critical building block for communities and sustained economic growth. As the new economic realities have demonstrated, funding for new recreational projects remains tight, demanding that communities take care of their existing facilities and adapt them as necessary to meet the needs of changing demographics and recreational trends. As South Carolina's population continues to increase and grow more diverse, the conservation of the state's recreational resources becomes an important component of the successful formula for both sustained economic growth and a quality of life desired by our citizens.
- (3) **Sustained Economic Benefits** - The economic benefits of outdoor recreation in South Carolina are significant. By utilizing and leveraging the State's outdoor recreation resources and attractions, we can promote tourism and create jobs that contribute millions of dollars to the State's economy. Perhaps the greatest value of parks, recreational lands and their amenities lies in their ability to attract and keep citizens, entrepreneurs, businesses, and the growing number of retirees who locate for quality of life reasons.

The 2014 SCORP is a call to action for all recreational related agencies within the state of South Carolina to help address the needs of its citizens, especially those struggling to maintain a healthy life style. In order to complete this mission, the State will need to be in close communication with other Federal, State, and local users to develop a dialogue and plans as to how recreational funds can best be utilized. This will require education by the State as to the possible strategies that can be used. It will be incumbent on the State to form



partnerships and to work in cooperation with providers as to what each can do within their jurisdictions to address the priorities of the 2014 SCORP.

PART I. INTRODUCTION

The *2014 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP) is South Carolina's official outdoor recreation plan. As such, this five-year plan serves as a guide to various Federal, State and local governmental agencies and the private sector entities involved in recreation and natural resources planning and development. The purpose of the Plan is to consider outdoor recreation issues relating to the needs of both residents and visitors to South Carolina, examine the State's recreational resources, analyze demand for recreational opportunities, develop an implementation program to address the identified needs and issues, identify funding opportunities, and identify issues of national importance. The Plan provides an opportunity for a variety of agencies and organizations to communicate upcoming projects, leverage limited resources, and coordinate activities. The SCORP is used as a guide for distribution of State recreation grant funds such as the *Parks and Recreation Development (PARD) Fund*. The SCORP meets the National Park Service requirements for a state plan and serves as the planning document for the disbursement of South Carolina's share of the Federal *Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)* which is administered by the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior. It is also used as a guide for the distribution of the Federal *Recreational Trails Program Fund* and by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the USDA Forest Service, the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the SC Department of Natural Resources, and other State, regional and local agencies and organizations to identify recreation use and needs concerning resources under their purview.

The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) is the designated agency responsible for outdoor recreation planning in the State. The South Carolina General Assembly created the SCPRT in 1967 and reaffirmed its role in 1993:

- To promote the State's tourist attractions;
- To promote the general health and welfare of South Carolinians by developing and expanding recreational areas;
- To develop a coordinated plan which best utilizes the State's facilities and resources such as the natural scenery, outdoor sports, and recreational activities;
- To provide for the preservation and perpetuation of the Palmetto State's rich historical heritage;
- To lease or convey lands to local governments for parks and recreation facilities; and
- To study the State's park and outdoor recreational resources and facilities, the current and projected needs for these resources, and the extent to which these needs are being met.

The SCPRT is also charged with promoting economic diversity in all areas of the Palmetto State by extending the full benefits of tourism and recreation.

Developing an outdoor recreation plan for South Carolina takes place in the context of national trends and activities in this area and requires recognition of national priorities. National level priorities for outdoor recreation are described in *America's Great Outdoors: A Promise to Future Generations* (<http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/index.cfm>). This report notes that "Americans today have become increasingly disconnected from our great outdoors. We find ourselves cut off from the natural and cultural inheritance that has shaped our lives and history. Our natural resources remain central to our economic vitality, yet they are under intense pressure from development and fragmentation, unsustainable use, pollution, and

impacts from a changing climate." The response has been to develop a grassroots approach to protecting the lands and waters that connect all citizens and to provide better access to these resources in order to leave a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for future generations.

The goals of the America's Great Outdoors are presented in Chart 1. These goals reflect the national concern over reconnecting – or connecting for the first time – Americans to the outdoors as a means to protect the places and resources that we value. This process will not only promote an appreciation for the nation's natural, cultural, and historic resources, it will engage both adults and youth in more active and healthy lifestyles. Repurposing of existing recreational facilities to meet the changing demographic composition of the population and changing recreational preferences will conserve resources while providing increased opportunities for participation.

As noted previously, the SCORP is used as a guide for distribution of State recreation grant funds, particularly for the disbursement of South Carolina's share of the Federal *Land and Water Conservation Fund*, and is used as a guide for state and local governments, as well as the private sector, in making policy and planning decisions. The LWCF was established by Congress in 1964 to create parks and open spaces, protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges, preserve wildlife habitat and enhance recreational opportunities. Under the Stateside LWCF grant program, funds can be used to acquire land for parks and recreation purposes; build or redevelop recreation and park facilities; provide riding and hiking trails; enhance recreation access; and conserve open space, forests, estuaries, wildlife, and natural resource areas through recreation projects. A list of LWCF projects in South Carolina, by county, is located at <http://waso-lwcf.scrs.nps.gov/public/index.cfm>.



Chart 1: America's Great Outdoors Goals

Connecting Americans to the Great Outdoors

- Develop quality conservation jobs and service opportunities that protect and restore America's natural and cultural resources.
- Increase and improve recreational access and opportunities.
- Cultivate stewardship and appreciation of America's natural, cultural, and historic resources through innovative awareness-raising partnership initiatives and through education.
- Build stewardship values and engage youth in conservation and recreation.

Conserving and Preserving America's Great Outdoors

- Invigorate the LWCF to better meet conservation and recreation needs.
- Create and enhance a new generation of safe, clean, accessible great urban parks and community green spaces.
- Catalyze large-scale land conservation partnership projects through economic incentives and technical assistance.
- Significantly increase the pace of working farms, ranch, and forest land conservation.
- Increase financial incentives for land stewardship for farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and tribes.
- Conserve, restore, and manage federal lands and waters to ensure access and enjoyment for future generations while contributing to the protection of a larger natural and cultural landscape.
- Advance national, regional, and community-supported work to preserve and enhance unique landscapes, natural areas, historic sites, and cultural areas while ensuring openness and transparency in any land designations.
- Protect America's historic and cultural resources.
- Empower communities to connect with America's great outdoors through their rivers and other waterways.
- Support restoration and conservation of rivers, bays, coasts, lakes, and estuaries for recreation, healthy fisheries, and wildlife habitat.

Working Together for America's Great Outdoors

- Improve federal government performance as a conservation partner.
- Amplify the impact of the AGO Initiative by creating the Partnership for AGO.

PART II. STATE PROFILE

Located in the southeastern United States, the State of South Carolina is in the heart of a region that is experiencing unprecedented growth. An overview of the State's geographic, population, and economic development trends provides a glimpse into the challenges and opportunities faced by South Carolina as it works to accommodate growth while preserving and enhancing the State's quality of life. These trends have a profound effect on recreation and tourism resources and help define the direction and focus of outdoor recreation planning in the Palmetto State.

A. GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE

South Carolina's diverse geography and wealth of natural resources play an integral role in shaping the State's growth patterns and its appeal as a recreational and tourist destination. South Carolina ranks 40th in size among the fifty states at 32,007 square miles. Of this total, land area comprises more than 30,111 square miles, or 94%, with the remaining 1,896 square miles, or 6%, consisting of water. The State offers a full range of topographic features – from the mountains and foothills of the southern Blue Ridge Mountains, to the rolling Piedmont, Sandhills, and broad Coastal Plains, and to the coastal barrier islands and expansive beaches on the Atlantic Ocean.

South Carolina is comprised of three physiographic provinces – the Blue Ridge, Piedmont and Coastal Plain. The Blue Ridge Mountains cover an area of approximately 500 square miles in the northwestern corner of the State. The highest point in the State is Sassafras Mountain in Pickens County, with an elevation of 3,548 feet above sea level. As a transitional zone between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Coastal Plain, the Piedmont region roughly spans the area between Greenville and Columbia. The Piedmont is separated from the Coastal Plain by the fall line – the boundary where the upland terrain gives way to less rocky, softer soil conditions – that generally runs diagonally across the middle of the State through the Capital City of Columbia. The Coastal Plain extends over approximately two-thirds of the State, from the fall line to the Atlantic. This region is commonly referred to as the Lowcountry. The overall mean elevation of the State is estimated at 350 feet above sea level.

Climate also influences the quality and accessibility of outdoor recreational activities in South Carolina. Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Blue Ridge Mountains, the State enjoys relatively favorable weather conditions. The State's climate offers long summers and mild winters providing year-round recreational opportunities. The Appalachian Mountains that form the northwestern border contribute to a temperate climate. Their proximity blocks much of the cold air from the northwest, resulting in mild winters. However, their presence also creates a notable area of decreased rainfall in the middle portion of the State. The average temperature in the middle of the State ranges from 33°F to 56°F in January and between 71°F and 92°F in July. The average temperature statewide is 65°F.

South Carolina benefits from an abundant supply of water in the form of lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and aquifers. This water supply has contributed to the development and growth of the State's economy, particularly its tourism industry. The State's water resources are presently ample and still reasonably clean and fresh. The primary sources for water in the State are precipitation and stream flow from adjacent states. There are 11,000 miles of permanently flowing rivers and streams, nearly one-half mile for every square mile of land surface. There are four major river basins in South Carolina: the ACE River Basin with sub-basins consisting of the Ashepoo, Combahee and Edisto Rivers; the Pee Dee River Basin with sub-basins consisting of the Black, Little Pee Dee, Lynches, Great Pee Dee and Waccamaw Rivers; the Santee River Basin with sub-basins consisting of

the Cooper, Santee, Congaree, Saluda, Broad, Wateree and Catawba Rivers; and the Savannah River Basin which spans portions of South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina (Figure 1).

Figure 1. South Carolina Surface Water



Rainfall impacts the condition and supply of the State’s water resources and is usually abundant and distributed relatively evenly throughout the year. The annual rainfall ranges from 30 to 75 inches, and averages 45 inches. The heaviest rainfall occurs in the northwestern portion of the State in the Mountains and Foothills, while the Midlands area is the driest. The Coastal Plain receives higher levels of rainfall due to the influence of the Atlantic. However, periods of drought are not uncommon and can influence natural and outdoor recreational resources. A one-in-four probability of drought is projected for somewhere in the State at any given time. Droughts are naturally-occurring events that can seriously impact agriculture, drop water bodies to record low levels, damage forestry resources, drastically lower shallow and deep ground water resources, threaten public drinking water supplies, and endanger water quality. More recent droughts have included a moderate to severe drought period from August 2006 to April 2013, with few exceptions during this period of time.

Man-made controls such as dams have significantly influenced stream-flow and recreational opportunity in several regions of the State. There are 1,617 lakes larger than 10 acres scattered throughout South Carolina. According to the *Inventory of Lakes in South Carolina*, these lakes cover more than 521,737 acres and impound in excess of 15 million acre-feet of water. Of these, 19 reservoirs larger than 1,000 acres account for more than 461,400 acres of surface water (Table 1). Power production was the primary reason for constructing 15 of these

large reservoirs. However, recreation is a principal use of most of the State's lakes. The major lakes include: Lakes Jocassee, Keowee, Hartwell, Richard B. Russell, and Strom Thurmond (formerly Clarks Hill) on the Savannah River; Lakes Greenwood and Murray on the Saluda River; Monticello and Parr Reservoirs on the Broad River; Lakes Wylie and Wateree and Fishing Creek Reservoir on the Catawba and Wateree Rivers; Lakes Marion and Moultrie on the Santee and Cooper Rivers; and Lake Robinson on Black Creek (see Table 1).

Table 1. Major Reservoirs in South Carolina

Lake	Owner	Surface Area (Acres)
Lake Marion	SC Public Service Authority	110,600
Lake Thurmond	US Army Corps of Engineers	70,000
Lake Hartwell	US Army Corps of Engineers	56,000
Lake Moultrie	SC Public Service Authority	60,400
Lake Russell	US Army Corps of Engineers	26,650
Lake Murray	SC Electric & Gas Company	51,000
Lake Keowee	Duke Power Company	18,372
Lake Wateree	Duke Power Company	13,710
Lake Wylie/Lake Catawba	Duke Power Company	12,455
Lake Greenwood	Greenwood County/Duke Power	11,400
Lake Jocassee	Duke Power Company	7,565
Monticello Reservoir	SC Electric & Gas Company	6,800
Fishing Creek Reservoir	Duke Power Company	3,370
Lake Robinson	Carolina Power & Light	2,250
Parr Reservoir	SC Electric & Gas Company	4,400
Par Pond	Savannah River Site/USDOE	2,700
Lake Bowen	Spartanburg Water Works	1,600
North Saluda Reservoir	Greenville Water Works	1,080
L-Lake	Savannah River Site/USDOE	1,050

Source: Inventory of Lakes in SC, SC Water Resources Commission, Report Number 171, 1991.

Nearly one-fourth of South Carolina's land surface, or 4.5 million acres, is considered wetlands. Wetlands are a vital natural resource – providing a natural filtration system for sediment and pollution and serving as habitat for numerous species. Only four other states have a higher percentage of wetlands than South Carolina – Alaska, Florida, Louisiana and Maine. South Carolina's wetlands comprise nearly 12% of the total wetland area of the southeastern United States. Of the State's wetlands, 90% are freshwater and 10% consist of saltwater or brackish marshland. Freshwater wetlands occur throughout the State and include freshwater marshes, forested wetlands (primarily cypress-tupelo swamps and bottomland hardwood forests), and isolated wetlands (Carolina bays, pocosins, potholes, mountain bogs, and sinkholes).

South Carolinians and tourists to the State enjoy 190 miles of coastline. The coastal beaches are the State's greatest single attraction among the various natural, historic, and man-made recreational resources and are the focal point of the State's travel and tourism industry. The 60-mile Grand Strand that extends from northern Horry County south to Georgetown County contains some of the Atlantic Coast's longest unbroken stretches of beaches. Myrtle Beach is ranked nationally as the #2 beach vacation destination in the country. Further south along the coast, the semi-tropical barrier islands of Charleston, Colleton, Beaufort, and Jasper Counties offer diverse recreational opportunities ranging from the elite, manicured resort developments of Hilton Head Island to undeveloped, wilderness areas such as Cape Romain Wildlife Refuge and Capers Island State Heritage Preserve. Other coastal resources include 240 miles of Intracoastal Waterway, extensive saltwater marshes, and numerous bays and sounds.

B. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

South Carolina has experienced steady population growth over the past four decades and is currently the 12th fastest growing state in the nation (based on 2010 estimates). Between 1970 and 1990, the State's population grew from approximately 2.6 million to nearly 3.5 million, an increase of 35%. The State grew by more than a half million persons from 2000 to 2010, an increase of more than 15%. By 2010, the number of South Carolina residents surpassed 4.6 million, with a population density of more than 154 people per square mile. The State's population grew by 15.3% (613,352 persons) since the 2000 Census, with 68% of the growth attributed to migration into the State. The population projection for the year 2020 approaches 4.82 million, representing a 20.2% increase from 2000.

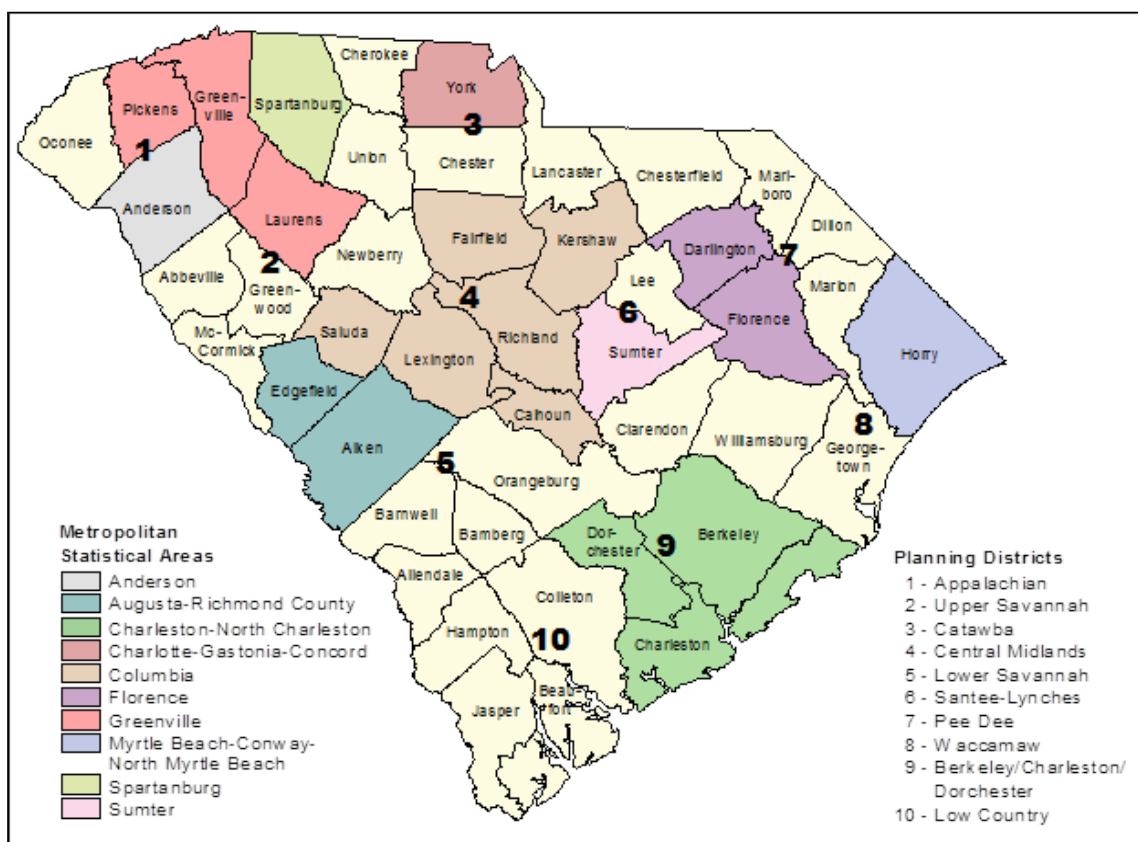
South Carolina's population has become increasingly urbanized, with 66.3% of the State now classified as urban. During the past three decades, the rural share of the State's population fell to well under half of the total population, dropping from nearly 52% in 1970 to 46% in 1980, and decreasing to 45% in 1990, 39.5% by 2000, and 33.7% in 2010.

There are currently 10 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in South Carolina that encompass 21 of the State's 46 counties (Figure 2). These 10 MSAs include the Anderson MSA (Anderson County), Augusta-



Richmond County GA-SC MSA (Aiken and Edgefield Counties), Charleston-North Charleston MSA (Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties), Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord NC-SC MSA (York County), Columbia MSA (Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, and Saluda Counties), Florence MSA (Darlington and Florence Counties), Greenville MSA (Greenville, Laurens and Pickens Counties), Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach MSA (Horry County) and Sumter MSA (Sumter County). As shown in Table 2, the combined population for these MSAs was more than 3.5 million in the 2010 Census, with 3.9 million projected by 2020. A comparison of the metropolitan population with the State total reveals that nearly 41% of the State's population lives in these ten metropolitan areas. Figure 2 shows the location of the State's Metropolitan Statistical Areas as well as the counties within each planning district.

Figure 2. South Carolina Planning Districts and Metropolitan Statistical Areas



Source: *South Carolina Statistical Abstract, 2010*. SC Budget and Control Board, Office of Research and Statistical Services, Columbia, SC; US Census Bureau, 2010 Census.



Table 2. South Carolina Population by Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

MSA	1990	2000	2010	2020 Estimated	% Change 2010- 2020
Anderson	145,196	165,740	187,126	199,500	6.61%
Augusta-Richmond County (SC portion)	139,315	167,147	187,084	199,500	6.64%
Charleston-North Charleston	506,875	548,972	664,607	736,000	10.74%
Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord (SC portion)	131,497	164,614	226,073	319,900	41.50%
Columbia	548,335	647,158	767,598	842,900	9.81%
Florence	176,195	193,155	205,566	212,400	3.32%
Greenville	472,153	559,940	636,986	684,300	7.43%
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	144,053	196,629	269,291	319,900	18.79%
Spartanburg	226,800	253,791	283,307	305,800	7.94%
Sumter	102,637	104,646	107,456	108,900	1.34%
Total SC MSA Population	2,593,056	3,001,792	3,535,094	3,929,100	11.14%

Table 3 details the State's population distribution by the ten regional planning districts in South Carolina. Figure 3 provides additional information about population change by county.

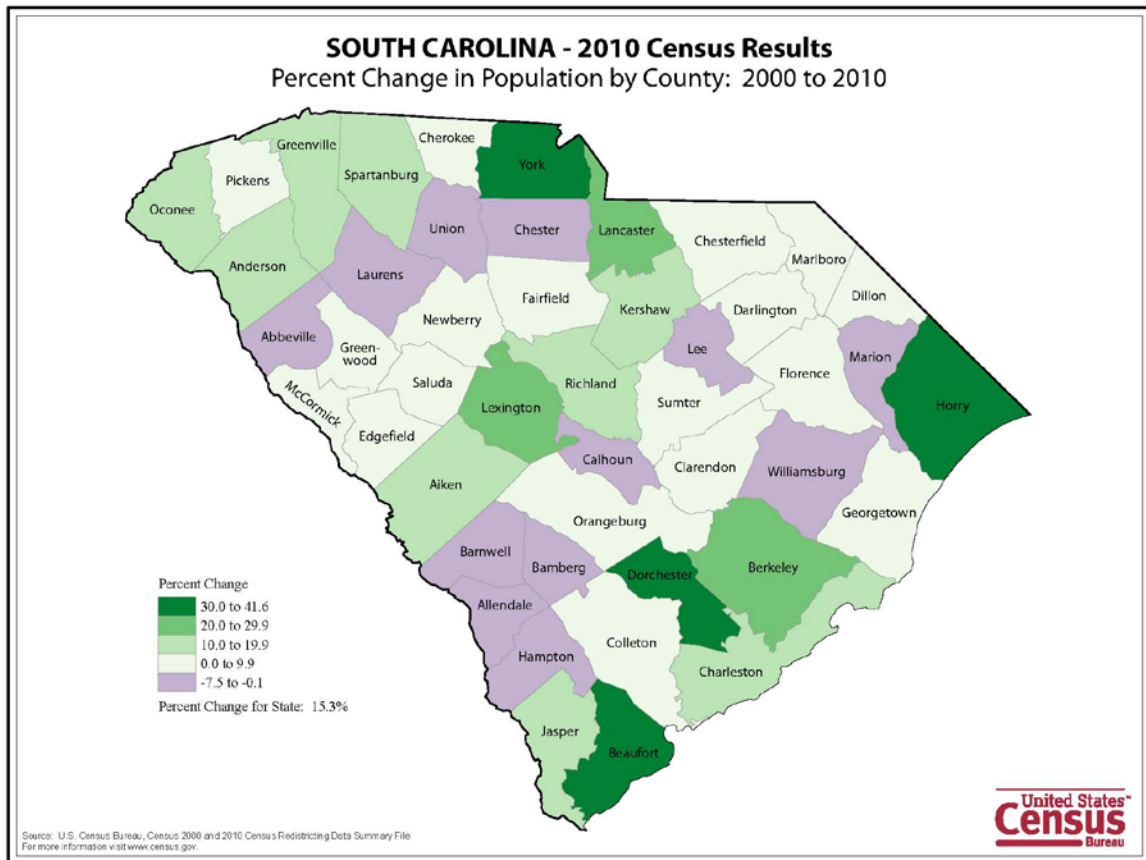
Table 3. South Carolina Population by Regional Planning Area

District Number	Regional Planning District	1990	2000	2010	2020 Projected
1	Appalachian	887,993	1,028,656	1,171,497	1,260,200
2	Upper Savannah	185,230	215,739	218,708	220,600
3	Catawba	248,520	289,914	364,826	419,400
4	Central Midlands	509,314	596,253	708,359	778,500
5	Lower Savannah	267,470	300,666	316,802	327,400
6	Santee-Lynches	191,762	209,914	223,344	231,200
7	Pee Dee	307,499	330,929	346,357	355,100
8	Waccamaw	227,170	289,643	363,872	415,500
9	Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester	506,877	549,033	664,607	736,000
10	Low Country	154,475	201,265	246,992	276,900

Source: SC Budget and Control Board. South Carolina Statistical Abstract, 2010. Office of Research and Statistical Services, Columbia, SC ; US Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

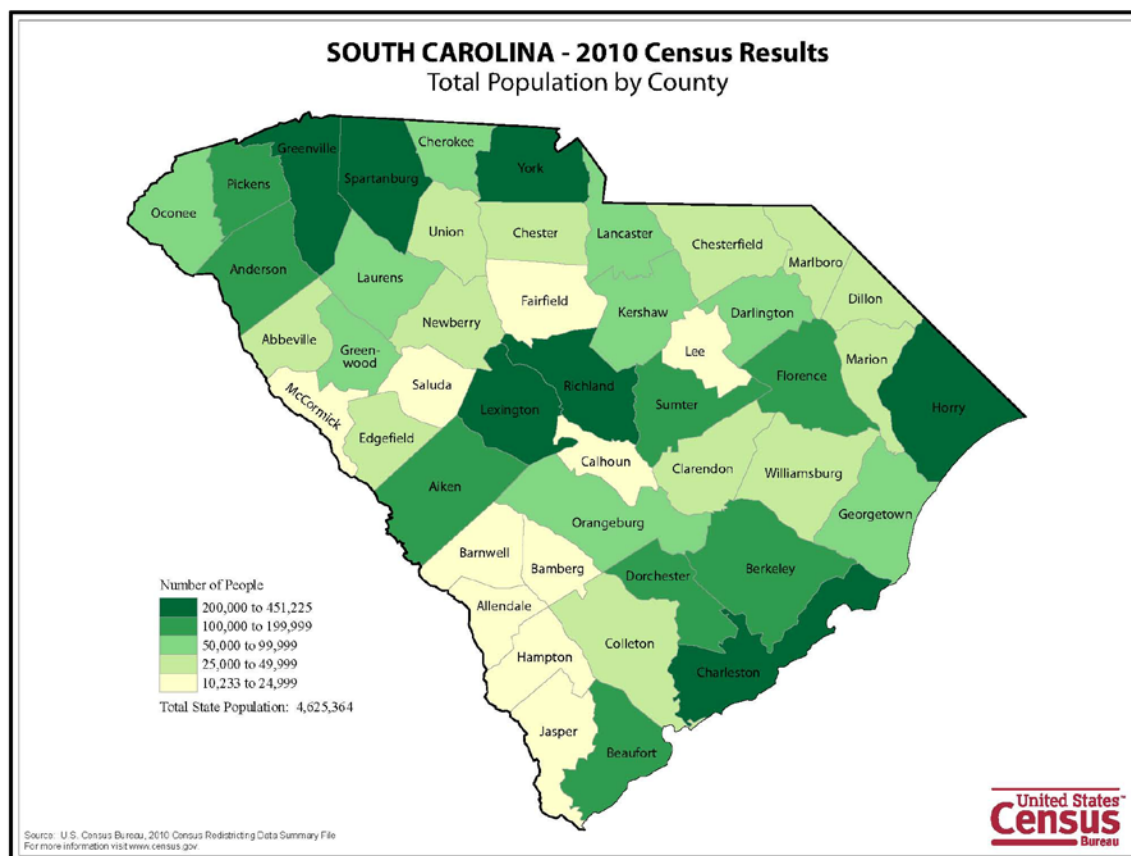


Figure 3. South Carolina Population Change by County, 2000 to 2010



Projections for population and economic growth over the next decade point to continued double digit increases in the Catawba, Waccamaw, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester, and Low Country Regions. Growth is also anticipated, although at a more moderate rate, for the remaining six regions – Appalachian, Central Midlands, Lower Savannah, Pee Dee, Santee-Lynches, and Upper Savannah. Figure 4 illustrates total population in South Carolina by county.

Figure 4. South Carolina Total Population by County, 2010



The total number of South Carolina households, at more than 1.8 million in 2010, has grown at an even faster rate than the population as a whole. This trend is the result of smaller family size with fewer children, an increase in the number of single-parent households, longevity among the elderly population, and delayed marriages.

Household growth has been accompanied by a rise in the median age of State residents. The median age of South Carolinians in 2000 was 35.4 years, a substantial increase from the median age of 32 years in 1990. Table 4 indicates a trend towards an older population within the State. These demographic transitions will influence outdoor recreation planning efforts in future years.

South Carolina ranks as the 7th highest in the nation – behind the District of Columbia and the States of Hawaii, Mississippi, Maryland, Louisiana and Georgia – in the overall percentage of minority population. Caucasians and African-Americans comprise 66.2% and 27.9% of the State's population, respectively. As shown in Table

5, the State's African-American population is more than double the national percentage, while the State's percentage of Asian, American Indian, and Hispanic population currently falls below national averages.

Table 4. South Carolina Population by Age

Year	Total	0-4 years		5-19 years		20-64 years		65 years +	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1990	3,486,703	263,156	7.5%	786,754	22.6%	2,042,744	58.6%	394,049	11.3%
2000	4,012,012	264,679	6.6%	871,099	21.7%	2,390,901	59.6%	485,333	12.1%
2010	4,625,364	302,297	6.5%	922,128	19.9%	2,769,065	59.9%	631,874	13.7%
2015	4,501,000	290,000	6.4%	889,000	19.8%	2,652,000	58.9%	670,000	14.9%

Sources: SC Budget and Control Board. South Carolina Statistical Abstract, 2009. Office of Research and Statistical Services; US Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2012.

The racial composition of the South Carolina population, especially among minorities, will continue to change in the coming decades. Both the State's Asian and Hispanic populations are projected to more than double from 1990 to 2025, representing growth rates six times higher than the South Carolina population as a whole.

Table 5. South Carolina Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2005, 2010

Race/Ethnicity	South Carolina 2005	South Carolina 2010	United States 2005	United States 2010
White	68.4%	66.2%	80.2%	72.4%
African-American	29.2%	27.9%	12.8%	12.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.4%	0.4%	1.0%	0.9%
Asian	1.1%	1.3%	4.3%	4.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Hispanic or Latino*	3.5%	2.5%	14.4%	16.3%

* Hispanic/Latino is an ethnic designation that includes persons of multiple racial groups, therefore it is considered separately in regard to percentage of total population.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Population Estimates.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) reported in 2010 that South Carolina had the 14th worst overweight or obesity rate in the nation and that 67.4% of South Carolina adults were overweight or obese (BMI > 25). In 2003, this resulted in a total of more than \$1 billion in obesity related medical expenditures to address such medical issues as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and several other complications. The numbers for youth are not any better in that 31.7% of South Carolina high school students are overweight or obese. Studies show that obese adolescents have a 70% chance of becoming overweight or obese adults. The Journal of the American Medical Association reports that "...if current trends continue, one out of three children born in 2000 will develop Type 2 diabetes, primarily due to a poor diet and lack of physical activity." (Narayan KM, 2003). Additional medical issues such as high blood pressure, poor self-esteem, and asthma are likely as well. In 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that South Carolina had an obesity rate of 31.5% and a self-reported rate of 30.8%. In 2012, the America's Health Ranking from the United Health Foundation ranked the state of South Carolina 46th overall in the health rankings and 42nd in obesity [with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of greater than 30.0]. They reported

that 30.8% of the citizens had a BMI of 30.0 or greater. This was an increase of 10% since 2000. For more than a decade, the data have been consistent and the picture is not positive. The citizens, especially the youth, of South Carolina are becoming overweight which will result in major health problems if not addressed. As shown in Table 6, there are great disparities among counties.

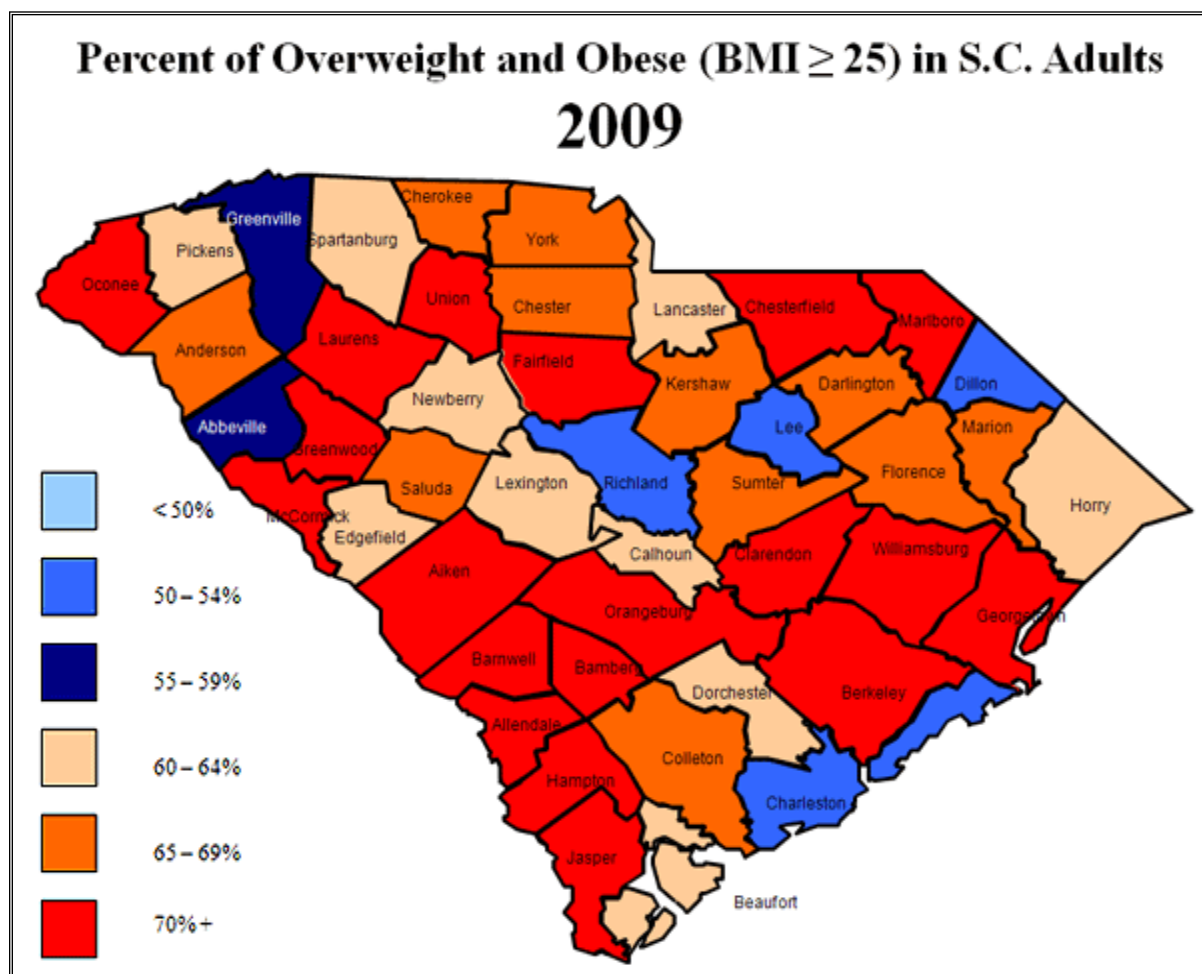
Table 6. Percentage of Adults who were Overweight or Obese by County 2010

County	%	Ranking	County	%	Ranking
STATE	67.4				
ABBEVILLE	77.7	39	GREENWOOD	67.9	25
AIKEN	66.9	19	HAMPTON	77.8	40
ALLENDALE	88.5	46	HORRY	65.9	14
ANDERSON	64.5	9	JASPER	73.0	31
BAMBERG	78.1	41	KERSHAW	66.2	15
BARNWELL	67.2	23	LANCASTER	71.9	30
BEAUFORT	56.9	3	LAURENS	65.1	12.5
BERKELEY	52.8	1	LEE	73.5	33
CALHOUN	64.9	11	LEXINGTON	67.0	21
CHARLESTON	56.5	2	MARION	63.4	7
CHEROKEE	67.1	22	MARLBORO	73.9	35
CHESTER	73.7	34	MCCORMICK	70.4	28
CHESTERFIELD	75.0	37	NEWBERRY	65.1	12.5
CLARENDON	80.7	45	OCONEE	71.0	29
COLLETON	66.6	17	ORANGEBURG	73.4	32
DARLINGTON	78.3	42	PICKENS	57.4	4
DILLON	66.4	16	RICHLAND	64.4	8
DORCHESTER	79.8	43.5	SALUDA	68.0	26
EDGEFIELD	75.2	38	SPARTANBURG	57.7	5
FAIRFIELD	79.8	43.5	SUMTER	74.0	36
FLORENCE	67.6	24	UNION	60.0	6
GEORGETOWN	66.9	19	WILLIAMSBURG	66.9	19
GREENVILLE	64.8	10	YORK	70.1	27

Source: 2011 South Carolina Obesity Burden Report

The county with the highest percentage of adult overweight or obese was Allendale (88.5%), while the county with the lowest percentage of adult overweight or obese was Berkeley (52.8%).

Figure 5. Percentage of Overweight and Obese in South Carolina



C. ECONOMIC PROFILE

Paralleling the expansion of state economies throughout the South, South Carolina has experienced heightened economic growth over the last few decades. Emerging from an agrarian tradition, the State has launched the transformation of its economy into a diversified base of manufacturing, trade, services, and tourism activity. Located in the heart of the nation's Sunbelt with abundant access to five interstate highways and three ports on the Atlantic, South Carolina is strategically positioned to continue to attract new business and industry.

Between 1990 and 2000, the State attracted more than \$48 billion in capital investments and created more than 237,000 new jobs. Between 2000 and 2006, the State garnered an additional \$15.2 billion in capital investment and the creation of more than 87,000 jobs. Between 2007 and 2012, there was an additional \$23.8 billion in capital investments and over 107,000 jobs. One-in-five South Carolina jobs are now in manufacturing. Small business growth also continues to contribute significantly to the State's economy, with these smaller businesses numbering in excess of 339,000 in 2006 and also creating nearly one-half of all new jobs in South Carolina.

Tourism activity has evolved into a major economic asset for the Palmetto State. South Carolina hosts approximately 29.5 million domestic visitors each year for a total of 107.3 million visitor days. South Carolina

hosts nearly 1 million international visitors annually. Of these international visitors to the State, the majority (93%) is from Canada and 7% are from elsewhere, primarily Europe.

The economic impact of tourism in South Carolina is significant and growing, with travel and tourism expenditures and investments providing \$11.1 billion in economic activity in 2012 – a growth of 4.6% from 2011. The tourism and travel industry now directly and indirectly generates more than 111,300 jobs for South Carolinians (6.0% of State employment) and contributes over \$11 billion to the State's economy or 9% of the State's total economy. The contribution to South Carolina's Gross State Product (GSP) was estimated at \$17 billion in 2010. In 2005, more than \$1.2 billion of capital investment occurred in the South Carolina tourism industry.

State and local tax revenue generated from tourism activity totaled more than \$995 million in 2012, while government expenditures to support tourism activities are estimated at \$439 million. The fiscal impact from Federal tax revenue generated from tourism totaled \$626 million in 2012. Tax revenue from tourism is expected to continue to grow, although it may be tempered by an economic slowdown and rising fuel prices.

Outdoor recreation plays an integral, yet largely untapped, role in South Carolina's burgeoning tourism industry. Annually, more than 11 million visitors to South Carolina participate in some form of outdoor recreation during their trip. Coupled with heritage and cultural tourism, outdoor recreation offers significant economic development opportunities for all regions of the State, especially its rural, inland communities.

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

The economic impact of outdoor recreation is felt through many avenues, whether it is neighborhood passive parks, community athletic fields, or conserved land. Each in their own way contributes to the income of individuals, households, and/or the community.

Passive parks (those without athletic fields) have demonstrated since the development of New York's Central Park over 150 years ago that they increase land value near parks based on the "proximate principle". Increased land values result in higher property taxes that can offset the cost of the park and/or create potential revenue streams. In addition, parks can help attract businesses due to the "quality of place" that especially draws knowledge workers. It has been shown that businesses located in areas without parks pay higher salaries to attract workers of similar skills compared to businesses located in close proximity of parks.

Nationally, direct use parks, such as those with sporting activities, walking, picnicking, and other park visitation generate over \$1.08 billion in revenue per year. National parks contribute to this by acting as gateways to local counties. For every \$1 appropriated in the national budget, national parks generate \$4 for state and local economies. Gateway counties of national parks enjoy a 40% growth in total personal income when compared to non-park counties. Protected forest, wildlife areas, and natural lands support leisure time and recreational activities that pump dollars into local economies. National spending totals for equipment, trip related and other items are \$122.3 billion dollars annually. In South Carolina, direct, indirect, and induced income resulted in \$3.79 billion in economic impact in 2008. This does not include the impact of coastal tourism. In 1995, U.S. Forest Service economists determined that \$125 billion were generated from forest land annually, of which only 15% was generated from timber and mining. In South Carolina, forestry generated over \$17.1 million in 2008, along with over 83,000 jobs directly, indirectly and induced. Mining generated \$393 million along with 2,500 jobs. In the case of development versus conservation, it is believed that more can be generated through development but there are several points to consider in these equations. Increasing lot sizes and lowering densities from .25 to 1.0 acre doubles the cost of installation of water and sewer services as well as higher annual costs. Other costs such as roads, transit and emergency services are greater with lower density

developments. Thus the preservation of farms, ranches and forests result in lower cost to provide community services and taxes. Services cost on average \$1.16 for every dollar that communities realize from residential development versus \$0.37 in community services for each dollar of economic development for land kept in ranching, farming and forestry.

The preservation of ecosystems has long-term benefit for human beings and the planet. The maintenance of the planet in order to preserve drinkable water, breathable air, and a stable climate is in everyone's best interest. The value of these systems can range from \$106,333 to \$689,700 per acre depending on the services the systems are providing. Research has shown that increased forest cover for a watershed decreases the amount of chemicals needed to treat the water. For every 10% increase in cover, the decrease in chemical use can range from 20% to 60%. In addition, the conservation of ecosystems (parks, open spaces, and other natural lands) has been used to treat wastewater and stormwater reducing the need for treatment plants and chemicals.

Just as the land is used to treat the water, trees and forests are used to treat the air. Health costs due to outdoor pollution range from \$14 billion to \$55 billion annually. While regulations attempt to minimize these pollutants, natural systems can also strip them from the air, preventing billions of dollars in additional cost per year. In addition to cleaning the air, trees provide nature's version of air conditioning. Properly planted, trees can reduce the levels of electricity needed to cool both residential and commercial facilities

Coastal ecosystems constitute 43% of the world's total ecosystem services, but only 8% of the earth. Their services range from food and clothing to clean water and erosion control to recreation and ecotourism. South Carolina, with its 187 miles of general coastline, is well aware of its uses and benefits. Coastal tourism, boat manufacturing, and commercial fisheries total more than \$11.5 billion in direct, indirect and induced resources annually.

In 2011, SCPRT research staff, with the assistance of Strategic Marketing & Research, Inc. (SMARI), conducted a visitor profile study of recent state park visitors in order to identify park visitor and visitation characteristics. Utilizing the State Park System database of recent park visitors, SMARI conducted online visitor surveys, then compiled, cleaned and coded the results for analysis. Based on the information gathered through this process, SCPRT was able to identify useful topline information regarding State Park usage and current visitation trends.

Repeat Visitation

- Among the respondents, approximately 85% reported having visited an SC State Park previously
- 60% of respondents reported having visited State Parks 6 or more times in the past 5 years

Party Size and Composition

- Travel party size varies, but is most likely to be between 2 and 4 people
- A little less than half of travel parties include children

Duration and Lodging

- The average number of nights spent in a State Park was 4.4
- 69% of overnight visitors stayed at an RV campsite, 17% used an established tent campsite and 15% stayed in a cabin or villa

On and Off-Park Spending

- In total, visitors spent an average of \$228 inside the park, mostly on lodging
- Average out-of-park spending was \$442, with the bulk of spending being for food, shopping and transportation



E. RECREATION RESOURCES

South Carolina is home to a variety of outdoor recreational resources ranging from public lands and facilities provided by Federal, State and local governments to private facilities and properties open to the public or for exclusive use through ownership or lease. Demand for recreational opportunities continues to grow as the State’s population grows, as more residents and visitors expand interest and usage, and as residents and visitors alike seek new activities.



Public Facilities

There are numerous publicly-owned recreation facilities in South Carolina ranging from national forests, national parks and state parks, to local parks and single purpose facilities such as boat access ramps. The various public facilities in the State are developed and managed by multiple agencies at different levels of government, with some recreational facilities leased from the private sector. As traditional funding sources decline and maintenance and upgrade costs for recreational facilities continue to increase, most public facilities have adopted user fees to offset operational and maintenance costs.

State Parks

The South Carolina State Park Service is comprised of 47 state parks totaling more than 80,000 acres (see Figure 6). Activities and events vary at each park but commonly include a combination of natural or historical attractions, camping, lodging, picnicking, interpretive and educational programs, swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, equestrian trails, playgrounds, biking, or community buildings. These park properties contribute to the State's protected base of natural and historic areas, providing South Carolinians with public access to diverse outdoor experiences that are representative of the State's rich base of natural, cultural and historic resources. For additional information and locations see the following web site <http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/>.



Figure 6. South Carolina State Park Service Facilities



Scenic Rivers

Ten South Carolina river segments have been designated State Scenic Rivers to date – the Middle Saluda, Little Pee Dee (US 378 to the Greater Pee Dee River), Lower Saluda, Broad, Catawba, Lynches, Ashley, Black, Great Pee Dee and Little Pee Dee (Dillon County). Several others are now considered eligible under the State Scenic River Program – the Congaree, Whitewater, Thompson, Edisto and Little Pee Dee/Lumber. South Carolina also shares most of the Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River along its northwestern border with the State of Georgia. For additional information and locations see the following web site http://www.dnr.sc.gov/water/envaff/river/design_rivers.html.

State Forests

The South Carolina Forestry Commission manages five state forests – Sand Hills in Chesterfield and Darlington Counties (46,838 acres), Harbison in Richland County (2,137 acres), Poe Creek in Pickens County (2,498 acres), Manchester in Sumter County (28,675 acres), and Wee Tee in Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties (12,403 acres). A wide and varied range of outdoor recreational activities are offered within each forest, ranging from picnicking and fishing to equestrian and all-terrain vehicle trails. For additional information and locations see the following web site <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/recreat.htm>.

Heritage Preserves



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) manages 74 State Heritage Preserves totaling more than 88,000 acres throughout the State. These preserves range in size from 1 acre to more than 18,000 acres and represent unique natural or cultural sites. Recreational opportunities at most sites include trails and wildlife observation, with organized nature and historical outings, picnicking, and hunting opportunities provided at many of the preserves. For additional information and locations see the following web site <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/mlands/heritage>.

Wildlife Management Areas

The SCDNR leases a total of 859,816 acres of public and private land for designated wildlife management areas to provide game hunting opportunities for the public as part of its Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Program. The Department also manages 232,730 acres of state-owned WMA land, including some Heritage Preserves, and provides hunting opportunities on over 1,092,546 acres of public and privately leased land. For additional information and locations see the following web site <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wma/>.

Trails and Greenways

More than 2,800 miles of trails and greenways have been constructed and designated throughout South Carolina, with additional trails and greenways in the planning stages. These resources are managed by a variety of agencies and community-based groups and accommodate diverse land-based recreational activities including hiking, fitness walking, mountain biking, all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles, and equestrian use, as well as water activities such as canoeing, rafting, and kayaking. Of particular note is the Palmetto Trail, which upon completion will link numerous existing public lands and existing trail segments to form a *mountains-to-the-sea* trail. For additional information and locations see the following web site <http://www.sctrails.net/trails/links.html>.

Table 7. Popular South Carolina Public Trails

Trail Name*	Miles	Use	County	Manager
Avery Lake Loop	2.7	Hiking	York	Anne Springs Close Greenway
Bull Island NRT	2.0	Hiking	Charleston	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Chattooga	15.5	Hiking	Oconee	USDA Forest Service
Edisto Nature NRT	1.5	Hiking	Colleton	Westvaco Forest Resources Division
Foothills Trail NRT	44.0	Hiking	Oconee	USDA Forest Service
Granby Garden/Mill Village	2.3	Hiking	Richland	Columbia Parks & Rec/River Alliance
Jones Gap NRT	5.3	Hiking	Greenville	SC State Park Service
Issaqueena Falls	0.2	Hiking	Oconee	Pendleton District Rec. & Tourism
Kings Mountain NRT	16.0	Hiking	York	SC State Park Service
Lake Juniper Boardwalk	0.5	Hiking	Chesterfield	SC State Park Service
Raven Cliff Falls	2.0	Hiking	Greenville	Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area
Historic Brattonsville	5.3	Hiking	York	Historic Brattonsville
Riverbanks Zoo	0.5	Hiking	Lexington	Riverbanks Zoo
Poinsett State Park	2.5	Hiking	Sumter	SC State Park Service
Swamp Fox NRT	42.0	Hiking	Charleston	USDA Forest Service
Table Rock NRT	3.4	Hiking	Pickens	SC State Park Service
Yellow Branch Falls	1.3	Hiking	Oconee	USDA Forest Service
Dillon Park/Cypress	6.01	Fitness	Sumter	Sumter County Rec Department
Riverfront Park/Cayce-West Columbia	5.0	Hiking/Mt. Biking	Lexington	Cayce & West Columbia/River Alliance
Sesquicentennial	11.5	Hiking/Mt. Biking	Richland	SC State Park Service
Springfield Loop	2.3	Hiking/Mt. Biking	York	Anne Springs Close Greenway
Palmetto Trail	220	Hiking/Mt. Biking/ Equestrian	Various	Palmetto Conservation Foundation
Harbison Forest	18.0	Hiking/Mt. Biking	Richland	SC Forestry Commission
Pinckney Island	14.0	Hiking/Mt. Biking	Beaufort	US Fish and Wildlife Service
West Ashley Greenway	10.5	Hiking/Mt. Biking	Charleston	Charleston County Recreation
Cheraw State Rec. Area	20.3	Equestrian	Chesterfield	SC State Park Service
Croft State Rec. Area	21.4	Equestrian	Spartanburg	SC State Park Service
Long Cane Horse	23.0	Equestrian	Abbeville	USDA Forest Service
Lynches Woods	6.1	Equestrian	Newberry	Newberry Soil/Water Commission
Manchester State Forest	20.0	Equestrian	Sumter	SC Forestry Commission
Sand Hills State Forest	92.0	Equestrian	Chesterfield	SC Forestry Commission
Forks Area Trail System	25.0	Mountain Biking	Edgefield	USDA Forest Service
Sand Hills State Forest	9.0	Mountain Biking	Chesterfield	SC Forestry Commission
Stevens Creek	5.5	Mountain Biking	McCormick	USDA Forest Service
Turkey Creek	12.5	Mountain Biking	McCormick	USDA Forest Service
Manchester State Forest	17.6	Mountain Biking	Sumter	SC Forestry Commission
Lynches Woods	7.5	Mountain Biking	Newberry	Newberry Soil/Water Commission
Island Pathway	50.0	Multiuse	Beaufort	Town of Hilton Head
N. Augusta Greenway	7.5	Multiuse	Aiken	N. Augusta Parks & Recreation
Waccamaw Neck Bikeway	1.3	Multiuse	Georgetown	Georgetown County
Swamp Rabbit Trail	19.5	Multiuse	Greenville	Greenville County Recreation

Scenic Highways

South Carolina currently has more than 415 miles of designated Scenic Highways. The State has four nationally designated Scenic Highways – the Cherokee Foothills National Scenic Highway in the Upstate, the Savannah River National Scenic Highway, the Ashley River Road in Charleston, and the Edisto Island National Scenic Byway in Charleston. For additional information and locations see the following web site (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/byways/nearby?q=sc>).

The USDA Forest Service also designated 14.5 miles of SC Highway 107 in Oconee County as the Oscar Wigington Scenic Byway. A 40-mile segment of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail tour route in South Carolina is managed by the National Park Service. For additional information and locations see the following web site http://www.scdot.org/getting/scenic_byways.aspx.

National Forests

Two national forests encompass 630,000 acres in South Carolina. The Francis Marion National Forest and the Sumter National Forest offer a wide range of recreational opportunities – from world class whitewater rafting, kayaking, and canoeing on the Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River to a myriad of Low Country experiences in blackwater rivers, swamps, maritime forests and marshes. Recreational opportunities are diverse and include hunting (allowed on more than 600,000 of the more than 630,000 acres), shooting sports, white water boating, sea kayaking, freshwater and saltwater fishing, shrimping, hiking, backpacking, boat ramps, primitive camping, tent/RV camping, ATV and motorcycle riding, mountain biking, horseback riding, interpretative trails, and environmental education. More than 1 million visitors use these forests each year. For additional information and locations see the following web site <http://www.fs.usda.gov/scnfs>.

National Parks

South Carolina is home to several nationally significant park, monument, military, battlefield, and historic sites. Congaree National Park is the largest of these sites at more than 22,000 acres and preserves the largest tract of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest remaining in the United States. The Park was the 57th national park designated nationwide and is the only national park in the State. The Park offers hiking trails, a boardwalk trail, wilderness canoe trail, and areas for group and primitive camping and fishing. Other national park sites preserve and/or interpret sites from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Monuments in Charleston County are two of the most visited National Park Service properties in the State. Other historic sites include Kings Mountain National Military Park in York and Cherokee Counties, Cowpens National Battlefield in Cherokee County, Charles Pinckney National Historic Site (home site of a signer of the Declaration of Independence) in Charleston County, and Ninety Six National Historic Site in Greenwood County. These national park sites offer opportunities to explore the history of the nation through historic buildings, documentaries, displays, trails, and tours. For additional information and locations see the following web site www.nationalparks.org/.

US Army Corps of Engineers Facilities

The US Army Corps of Engineers manages 325,000 acres of land and water along the Savannah River. The three lake projects – Lake Hartwell, Lake Russell, and Lake Thurmond – are among the largest Corps projects in the country. Visitors to all three lakes enjoy a wide range of recreational activities including water sports, hunting, hiking, picnicking, camping, boat ramps, and fishing. For additional information and locations see the following web site <http://www.usace.army.mil/>.

South Carolina Conservation Bank

The aim of the South Carolina Conservation Bank is to conserve significant natural resource lands, wetlands, historical properties, and archeological sites in the State. Since 2004, the Conservation Bank has conserved 74,388 acres of isolated wetlands, 2,188 acres of Carolina Bays, and 192 miles of river/creek frontage. In addition, 7,029 acres for urban parks, 12,297 acres in farm lands and 505 acres of historical lands have been preserved by the Conservation Bank.

The rapid conversion of farmland, forests and wildlife habitats to development, threatening South Carolinians' quality of life, prompted the creation of the Bank in 2002, and the legislature started funding in 2004. The funds are allocated by competitive grants to protect working farms, forestlands, wildlife areas, parks, trails, wetlands and historic sites. The Bank is funded by a portion of the real estate deed recording fee, and the state's funding has been matched by state, county and federal funds, private funds contributed by non-profit conservation groups such as The Nature Conservancy, and reduced selling prices by private landowners.

In May 2012, Governor Nikki R. Haley signed a bill passed by the South Carolina General Assembly the previous week to reauthorize the South Carolina Conservation Bank through 2018 (5 years) and continue funding protection of wetlands, forests, family farms, wildlife habitats and historic lands. According to Article XII, Section 1 of the South Carolina Constitution, conservation of natural resources is a core function of government. The Conservation Bank accomplishes this constitutional mandate – not by regulation – but through negotiation and compensation of property owners.

Farming, forestry, outdoor recreation and tourism tied to natural resources contribute about \$54 billion to the state's economy and provide roughly 463,000 jobs, according to recent studies. Thus, the Conservation Bank is critical to supporting South Carolina's natural resource-based economy and quality of life.

Table 8. Summary of Grants Funded by the SC Conservation Bank, FY 2004-2014

Cumulative Totals for FY 2004-2014	Number of Acres	Funding
Forestlands/Wetlands	178,819.25	\$74,550,648
Urban Parks	7,029.62	\$18,185,798
Farm Lands	12,297.21	\$14,030,573
Historical Lands	505.80	\$1,310,502
Totals	198,651.88	\$108,077,521

Land Trust

Of particular note are the private, non-profit land trusts that are being created throughout the State in response to growing development pressures. These organizations have become very active in the protection of natural and cultural resources through the permanent protection of properties from development. This is usually achieved by obtaining identified lands through donation or purchase, or by receiving conservation easements which restrict future development of the property. Conservation easements, a common protection tool, allow the land to remain in the hands of the original landowner, who becomes eligible for tax incentives. The land trust assumes responsibility for management of the resource. Often, conservation easements do not provide for public recreation, as the easements are individual agreements between the land trust and the private landowner. However, some easement agreements do provide for recreation (such as trails or greenways) and even nature-based tourism. Several land trusts are also active in identifying land for future conservation purchase and holding the land under option while public agencies can identify funding sources to support the acquisition.

According to the *2010 National Land Trust Census Report* by the Land Trust Alliance, more than 245,576 acres of land were protected by private, local and state land trusts in South Carolina representing a 39% increase in acreage from 2005, and a ranking of 17th nationwide in terms of protected acreage.

Table 9. South Carolina Land Trust Network

Land Trusts	Contact Information	Area Served
Aiken County Open Land Trust	P.O. Box 3096, Aiken, SC 29802 855-ALC-LAND (W)	Aiken Barnwell
American Forest Management, Inc.	2401 Whitehall Park Dr., Suite 100 Charlotte, NC 28273 704-527-6780 Ext. 312	Multi-state
Audubon Society of SC	Francis Beidler Forest 336 Sanctuary Road Harleyville, SC 29448 843-462-2150	Statewide
Beaufort County Open Land Trust	PO Box 75, Beaufort, SC 29901 843/521-2175	Beaufort County
Black Creek Land Trust	PO Box 647, Darlington, SC 29540 843/393-3881	Darlington
Chattooga Land Trust	8 Sequoia Hills Lane Clayton, GA 30525 706-782-6097	Chattooga River Watershed GA, NC, SC
Community Open Land Trust	PO Box 1605 Lexington, SC 29071 803/996-0617	GA, NC, SC
Congaree Land Trust	PO Box 232, Columbia, SC 29202 803/988-0000	Richland, Lexington, Sumter, Fairfield, Orangeburg, Bamberg, Clarendon, Williamsburg
Ducks Unlimited, Inc South Atlantic Field Office	3294 Ashley Phosphate Rd., Suite 2-A North Charleston, SC 29418 843-244-1849	Statewide
East Cooper Land Trust	PO Box 2495 Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465 843-244-1849	Charleston
Edisto Island Open Land Trust	PO Box 1, Edisto Island, SC 29438 843/869-9004	Colleton, Charleston – Only Edisto Island
Katawba Valley Land Trust	P.O. Box 1776 Lancaster, SC 29721 803-285-5801	Lancaster, Chester
Kiawah Island Natural Habitat Conservancy, Inc.	23 Beachwalker Dr. Kiawah Island, SC 29455 843-768-2029	Kiawah Island
Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust	233 North Live Oak Drive, Room B Moncks Corner, SC 29461-6120 843-899-5228	Berkeley
Lowcountry Open Land Trust	43 Wentworth St. Charleston, SC 29401 843-577-6510 877-877-5658 (toll free)	Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Orangeburg
Nation Ford Land Trust	PO Box 431 Fort Mill, SC 29716 803-547-8140	York

Land Trusts	Contact Information	Area Served
Naturaland Trust	PO Box 728 Greenville, SC 29602 864/235-8900	Greenville
Palmetto Conservation Foundation	722 King St. Columbia, SC 29205 803-771-0870	Statewide
Pee Dee Land Trust	P.O.Box 2134 Florence, SC 29503 843-667-3229	Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Georgetown, Marlboro, Williamsburg
Friends of the Reedy River Land Trust	PO Box 9351 Greenville, SC 29604 864-255-8946	Greenville, Laurens
SC Battleground Preservation Trust	P.O. Box 80668 Charleston, S.C. 29416-0668 843-743-8281	Statewide – focus battleground areas
Spartanburg Conservation Endowment (SPACE)	100 E. Main St., Suite 7B Spartanburg, SC 29306 864/948-0000	Spartanburg, Union
The Nature Conservancy	PO Box 20246 Charleston, SC 29413 843/937-8807, ext. 11	Statewide
Upper Savannah Land Trust	PO Box 918 Greenwood, SC 29648 864-993-5012	Abbeville, Anderson, Edgeville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Saluda
Upstate Forever	507 Pettigru St Greenville, SC 29601 864-250-0500	Greenville, Spartanburg, Laurens, Union, Pickens, Oconee, Anderson, Cherokee
Waccamaw Land Trust	Waccamaw Community Foundation 3655 S. Hwy 17 Bus. Murrells Inlet, SC 29576 843-357-4483	Horry, Georgetown
SCDNR Heritage Trust Program	PO Box 167 Columbia, SC 29202 803/734-3912	Statewide Heritage Trust Program
SCDNR – Land, Water & Conservation Division	1000 Assembly St. P.O. Box 167 Columbia, SC 29202 803-734-6367	Soil and water conservation districts Statewide
SC DNR Board	125 Regional Parkway, Suite 200 Orangeburg, SC 29118 803-536-6443	Statewide
Trust for Public Lands	21 Burns Lane Charleston, SC 29401 843/853-5880	Statewide
SC Chapter of American Planners Association	P.O. Box 683 Clemson, SC 29633	Statewide
The Conservation Fund	7580 Charlotte Highway, Suite 800 Ft. Mill, SC 29707 803/829-8054	Statewide
SC Conservation Bank	PO Box 167 Columbia, SC 29202 803/734-3986	Statewide

Source: <http://sccbank.sc.gov/entitlandtrust.html>

Wetlands

Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs. Unfortunately, the US Fish and Wildlife Service report entitled *Wetlands Losses in the United States, 1780s to 1980s*, estimates that wetlands in South Carolina decreased by 27% during the last century, resulting in a loss of more than 1.75 million acres of wetlands.

Because wetlands provide numerous benefits for humans, it is important to encourage their protection. In addition to providing habitat for plants and wildlife, estuarine wetlands provide critical habitat for a majority of the commercial fish and shellfish consumed in the United States. According to information provided by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), 96% of the commercial catch and more than 50% of the recreational catch in the Southeast consists of fish and shellfish that depend on estuary/coastal wetland systems. Coastal wetlands also act as a buffer to protect shore areas from waves and storms and help to reduce and even prevent erosion.

Ninety percent of the State's wetlands are freshwater wetlands. Freshwater wetlands can store stormwater to reduce flooding, as well as purify water by holding and breaking down pollutants and by trapping silt or soil so that it settles in the wetlands instead of clogging up nearby streams. Some wetlands store water in the rainy season and release the water later into nearby aquifers or underground streams. This cycle recharges the groundwater that supplies many South Carolinians with drinking water. There are also aesthetic values to wetlands in that they provide opportunities for boating, fishing, hunting and nature watching. People who hunt, fish, crab, hike, walk and boat, and those who observe and photograph birds in wetlands spend nearly \$10 billion a year on their hobbies. Wetlands also provide valuable educational experiences for all ages.

Scientists have linked atmospheric maintenance as an additional beneficial wetland function. Wetlands store carbon within their plant communities and soil (plants use carbon dioxide to photosynthesize) instead of releasing it to the atmosphere. Thus, wetlands even play a role in moderating global climate conditions.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources describes isolated ponds and wetlands as temporary freshwater features found embedded in other habitats. Examples include Carolina Bays, limesinks, flatwoods ponds and pocosins. While these waterbodies differ in their geologic origin and geomorphology, they are typically isolated from flowing streams, particularly any inflows. Occasionally these waterbodies will have an outflow "stream" that only flows when exceptionally heavy rains fill the pond above full pool. These isolated ponds and wetlands are vital to many species, particularly to amphibians as breeding ponds. Abundant grasses and sedges found at the edges of these waterbodies provide habitat structure for many species of amphibian larvae. Adjacent upland habitats are equally important to amphibian species. Although the waterbodies are used for breeding and nursery areas for the larval stages of these animals, they require appropriate upland habitat as adults.



The South Carolina State Action Plan has identified a number of species of greatest conservation need that rely on isolated ponds and wetlands. Included are 19 amphibians, four freshwater fishes and 7 varieties of crayfish categorized as the highest priority or high priority for conservation.

South Carolina is blessed with a variety of wetlands including coastal marshes and estuaries; swamps, bogs, isolated wetlands; and transitional areas around lakes, bays, ponds and rivers. Because of the many benefits of all of these types of wetlands, it is important to protect and conserve these areas for future generations (see Figure 7). While more than 30 agencies and organizations in South Carolina have a direct interest in wetlands and wetland preservation, there is no comprehensive state program for wetlands protection. Many factors affect wetlands and are leading to their loss or degradation. In addition to natural influences, the human impacts of urban development, pond construction, draining for agriculture, and pollution have resulted in wetland loss or degradation. Loss of any wetlands, especially through filling, increases runoff with a subsequent loss of the wetland functions for flood control, groundwater recharge, and water quality improvement. Of particular concern is the conservation of unique isolated freshwater wetlands such as Carolina Bays.

Existing State programs are tied to the Federal program, which is pursuant to Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The US Army Corps of Engineers administers a permitting program for the deposition of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, including wetlands, and evaluates these discharges according to the 404(b)(1) guidelines developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency. SC DHEC has historically reviewed the US Army Corps of Engineers permits for activities that alter wetlands in South Carolina. Through both the Bureau of Water's Section 401 water quality certification and the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management's coastal zone consistency certifications, DHEC is able to regulate activities, most notably the placement of fill material in wetlands.



The SCPRT has identified agencies and organizations involved in wetlands management, considered existing and proposed wetlands protection mechanisms, assessed wetlands resources, identified loss and degradation factors, evaluated protection methods, and established priority wetland types for acquisition. South Carolina has approximately 4.6 million acres of wetlands that comprise nearly one-fourth of the State's total land area. South Carolina's wetlands are important to outdoor recreation because they support fishing, hunting, boating, wildlife observation and photography, nature study, swimming, camping, hiking, historic sites, and walking for pleasure. Plants and wildlife are abundant and many endangered, rare, or uncommon species exist in these areas. SCPRT and the SCDNR Heritage Trust Program identified inland freshwater wetlands, such as Carolina bays and bottomland hardwood forests, as the most threatened wetland resources.

An overall wetland protection goal developed by SC Department of Natural Resources recognizes the need for protection of certain rare wetland habitat types. The following wetland habitats, as described in *The Natural Communities of South Carolina* by John Nelson, should be considered primary protection targets:

- Atlantic white cedar bogs
- Limestone sinks
- Piedmont seepage forests
- Pond pine/cypress savannahs
- Herb bogs
- Seepage and streamhead pocosins



According to the SC Department of Natural Resources, wetlands in State Scenic River corridors are considered for acquisition/preservation priority in addition to the recommended wetland protection sites listed in Table 10. At present, there are ten State Scenic Rivers.

Further wetland acreage is conserved through various non-profit conservation organizations. The Nature Conservancy has acquired a significant amount of wetland acreage for protection in addition to efforts by Ducks Unlimited, local land trusts, and many other organizations in wetland preservation and education. Many of these wetlands are protected through local non-profit groups working with private landowners using voluntary conservation easements. These organizations play a critical role by working in conjunction with the State to establish wetland sanctuaries and conservation areas.

Table 10. Important Wetlands in South Carolina

Area Name	County	Acres
Congaree Swamp National Monument	Richland	22,200
Monetta Sink	Aiken	14
Janet Harrison Highpond	Aiken	18
Barton Bay	Allendale	231
Ashleigh Bay	Barnwell	24
ACE River Basin	Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton	273,000
Four Hole Swamp	Dorchester, Orangeburg	2,050
Santee Delta	Georgetown	15,300
Upper Winyah Bay	Georgetown	23,000
Dukes Bay	Hampton	250
Bare Bone Bay Complex	Horry	1,100
Little Pee Dee	Horry, Marion	50,000
Mt. Pleasant Church Bay	Lee	55
Branchville Bay	Orangeburg	20
Saluda County High Ponds	Saluda	31
Shiloh Savannah	Sumter	43
Lewis Ocean Bay	Horry	9,393
Chandler Heritage Preserve	Greenville	60
Blackwell Bunched Arrowhead	Greenville	16
Bennetts Bay	Clarendon	680
Cartwheel Bay	Horry	568
Waccamaw River	Horry	5,347
Peter's Creek	Spartanburg	160
Black Creek	Darlington	500
Sparkleberry Swamp (Upper Lake Marion)	Sumter/Clarendon	16,700
Wetlands in State Scenic River Corridors	(various)	not determined
Wetlands in Edisto River Basin Report	(various)	not determined
Total		403,860+

Sources: Southeast Regional Wetlands Concept Plan, August, 1990, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Correspondence from SC Department of Natural Resources, 2001.

A 2001 report entitled *Conserving South Carolina: Sustaining and Protecting our Natural Resources* was prepared by a consortium of sponsoring conservation organizations that included Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, the SC Coastal Conservation League, the National Audubon Society, the Lowcountry Open Land Trust, and the ACE Basin Task Force. The study involved more than 75 of the State's leading ecologists, foresters, botanists, ornithologists, natural historians, and wildlife biologists who were called upon to identify areas that are critical to the continued survival of South Carolina's natural heritage. These areas are identified in a South Carolina Ecological Vision Map which broadly portrays areas that should be maintained and enhanced for traditional uses and ecological values through a variety of conservation measures. The study identified more than 5.9 million acres of unpreserved forests, swamps, open land and river corridors, with most of the land located in the State's coastal plain. Of the nearly 6 million acres identified, 3.5 million were considered critically significant wildlife habitat.

The 2005 Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) coordinated by SCDNR emphasized habitat protection as one of the most important actions to preserve South Carolina's priority species. Because the loss and fragmentation of habitat poses a major threat to many of the identified species, the CWCS focuses on

habitat or ecosystem-based conservation as a means to protect multiple species in a more cost-effective manner. A key recommendation of the proposed strategy is to acquire property for protection of priority species and to ensure habitat linkage through fee simple acquisition and conservation easements in the following habitats (many of which include wetlands):

Terrestrial Habitats

Appalachian Oak & Oak Pine Forest
Basic Mesic Forest
Acidic Mesic Forest
High-elevation Forest
Riverbanks, Streambanks & Alder Zones
Moist or Wet Types
Vertical or Horizontal Rock Outcrop
Upland Forest
Piedmont Small Stream Forest
River Bottoms
Cove Forest
Grassland & Early Successional Habitats
Sandhills Pine Woodland
Seepage Slopes
Ponds & Depressions
Blackwater Stream Systems
Pine Woodland
Upland Forest
Wet Flatlands
River Slopes & Stream Bottoms

Watersheds

Santee River Watershed
Savannah River Watershed
Pee Dee River Watershed
ACE Basin Watershed

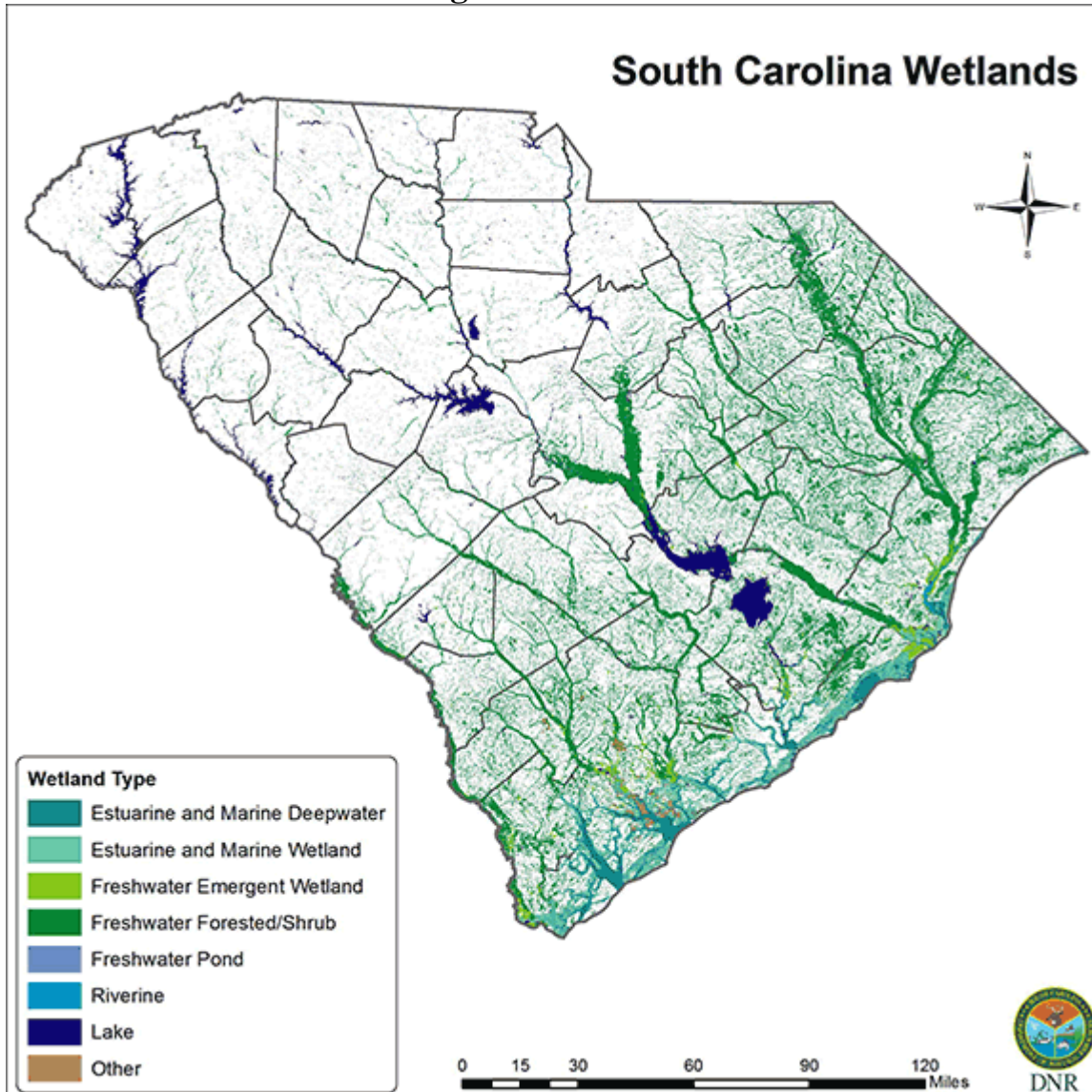
Coastal & Marine Habitats

Forested Habitats - Coastal Plain
Maritime Forest
Early Successional Habitats - Coastal Plain
Managed Impoundments
Tidal Fresh & Brackish Systems
Isolated Nonforested Uplands
Estuarine Systems
Hammock Islands
Ocean Beaches & Transition Zones
Marine Ecosystem
Man-made Structures

Local and Other Resources

Local governments provide a variety of much needed outdoor recreational resources and play a pivotal role in providing recreational opportunities. Additional information about available resources can be located on the websites of organizations such as the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association (<http://www.scrpa.org/>), the Municipal Association of South Carolina (<http://www.masc.sc/Pages/Default.aspx>), or the South Carolina Association of Counties (<http://www.sccounties.org/>). Information on other outdoor recreational resources in an area is available from local governments and recreation districts.

Figure 7. South Carolina Wetlands



Source: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/wetlands/SC_wetlands.pdf

F. Grant Resources

Traditional Federal funding sources for outdoor recreation have continued to decline in recent years. However, the State offers several grant opportunities to support recreation initiatives, most of which are administered through SCPRT. Additional opportunities are available through the SC Department of Archives and History and the SC Department of Transportation.

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** – LWCF is a federally-funded grant program administered by SCPRT for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas. LWCF funds are available only for local or state agencies. Grants provided under the program require a 50% match and are reimbursable. The minimum grant request is \$50,000 and the maximum amount is \$250,000. However, if the proposed project is determined to have regional or statewide significance it may be eligible for funding up to \$500,000. Because Federal funding for the LWCF program fluctuates annually, appropriations are not stable and cannot be estimated with any certainty.

Contact: SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Office of Finance
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 517
Columbia, SC 29201
803-734-1658
<http://www.scprt.com/our-partners/grants/lwcf.aspx>

- Recreational Trails Program (RTP) – RTP is a federally-funded grant program available to state, Federal and local government agencies or qualified private organizations for the purpose of building or improving trails. In South Carolina, SCPRT administers RTP as a reimbursable grant program that requires a 20% match for trail projects across the State. The minimum grant amount available under the program is \$10,000, with a maximum of \$100,000. Motorized projects are eligible for the maximum amount of motorized funding available. The RTP program budget is established and updated under the Federal Transportation Bill every six years. Future funding is expected to remain at the current annual level of approximately \$1 million.

Contact: SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Office of Finance
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 517
Columbia, SC 29201
803-734-0130
www.scprt.com/our-partners/grants/trails.aspx and www.sctrails.net

- Parks and Recreation Development Fund (PARD) – PARD is a state-funded, non-competitive reimbursable grant program for eligible local governments or special purpose districts which provide recreational opportunities within each county. The actual grant awards are made on a project-by-project basis. The funds are used for permanent indoor or outdoor improvements to public parks and recreation facilities. These projects must consist of new development, not maintenance. Each applicant must have the endorsement of its county legislative delegation members with a combined weight factor of more than 50%. Eligible project costs will be reimbursed at a rate of 80% (80/20 match). New allocations are received in July of every year, with available funds varying from year to year.

Contact: SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
Office of Finance
1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 517
Columbia, SC 29201
803-734-0185
<http://www.scprt.com/our-partners/grants/pard.aspx>

- Heritage Corridor Development Grants – The SC National Heritage Corridor Development Grant Program assists communities and non-profit organizations located within the 14-county SC National Heritage Corridor in developing, implementing, and maintaining a successful heritage tourism attraction or program that benefits residents and attracts visitors to the area. These 50/50 matching grants are focused on assisting eligible communities to develop their historical, cultural and natural assets so they may contribute to the sustainable economic revitalization of the Heritage Corridor region. Grant projects must fall into one of the three following categories: Planning, Product Development and Marketing, and Visitor Services. Projects that directly impact the visitor experience and that demonstrate a high degree of sustainability are given greater consideration.

Contact: Michelle McCollum
President and CEO
South Carolina National Heritage Corridor
PO Box 477
Belton, SC 29627
864-245-7380
michelle@scnhc.com or <http://www.scnhc.org>

- Historic Preservation Grant Program – The South Carolina Department of Archives and History administers the State’s Historic Preservation Grant Program through funding provided by the US Department of Interior’s National Park Service. The program began in 1987 and has awarded more than \$1.2 million for stabilization and weatherization projects to date. Grant awards range from \$2,500 to \$25,000, with a maximum award of \$30,000. Approximately \$100,000 is available yearly for grants, with 10% allocated annually per Federal regulation to projects for Certified Local Governments (CLGs) in the form of matching grants. There are currently 25 CLGs in the State including the Cities of Aiken, Anderson, Beaufort, Bennettsville, Charleston, Chester, Columbia, Conway, Darlington, Dillon, Georgetown, Greenville, Laurens, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Sumter and York; the Towns of Bluffton, Cheraw, Chesterfield, Fort Mill, Lexington, McClellanville, and Mount Pleasant; and Horry County. Grant applications may be made under two project categories:
- Survey and Planning Projects – Any governmental entity, non-profit organization, or institution may apply for funding under this category, including churches and other religious organizations. Funding under this program can be used for a variety of historic preservation projects including identifying, recording and recognizing historic properties; planning for historic districts and multiple historic properties; strengthening local government historic preservation programs; and planning for individual historic properties.
 - Stabilization Projects – Grants for stabilization projects may only be used in cities and towns that are CLGs, and may be applied for by the CLG, or any non-profit organization or institution within the incorporated limits of a CLG, as long as the grant application includes the signature of the Chief Elected Official of the CLG. CLG grant funds may be used to help pay for stabilization repairs to National Register buildings, excluding churches and church-owned property.

Contact: SC Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223-4905
803-896-6196
<http://shpo.sc.gov/programs/Pages/Grants.aspx>

- Transportation Alternatives Program Grants – The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) was authorized by the most recent Federal transportation funding Act - the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) that was signed into law on July 6, 2012. The Transportation Alternatives Program redefines the former Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities and consolidates these eligibilities with the Safe Routes to School and Recreational Trails Programs. The Transportation Enhancements program was originally authorized in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and continued through two successive laws TEA-21 and SAFETEA-LU. The

Transportation Alternatives program builds upon the legacy of the TE program by expanding travel choices, strengthening the local economy, improving the quality of life, and protecting the environment.

Contact: SC Department of Transportation
955 Park Street, Room 424
Columbia, SC 29201-3959
803-737-1952
<http://www.scdot.org/getting/community.aspx>

- Agritourism and Tourist Oriented Directional Signage Program - Commonly referred to as the TODS program, it is a program that allows tourism and agritourism-oriented facilities to have directional signing placed in the highway right-of-way. The program is a cooperative effort between the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT), the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT) and the SC Department of Agriculture (SCDA). Designed to promote agritourism and tourist-oriented facilities in rural areas, the program provides directional signing from the closest primary route, a designated SC or US route. The SCDA and the SCPRT are responsible for promoting the program and screening businesses to ensure that they qualify to participate in the program.

Contact: SC Department of Transportation
955 Park Street
Columbia, SC 29202-0191
855-467-2368
www.scdot.org

SC Department of Agriculture
Wade Hampton Bldg., 5th Floor
Columbia, SC 29211
803-734-2210
<http://agriculture.sc.gov/agritourismandTODS>

SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803-331-9933
www.scpert.com/our-partners/tods.aspx

PART III: 2008 SCORP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for South Carolina has been updated on a regular basis since it was first developed in 1965. The initial plan was developed by the South Carolina Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources (now the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources). Subsequent plans have been developed by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, which was created in 1967. The Plan has been revised and published about every five years, with the most recent being the *2008 South Carolina State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*.

The *2008 SCORP* identified six goals to be addressed during the 5-year SCORP planning period.

CHART 2. 2008 SCORP Goals

Goal 1:	To continue a planning process for outdoor recreation which provides coordination with other agencies and organizations, implements the approved plan, and adjusts the plan periodically for the changing needs of the population and visitors.
Goal 2:	To provide the people of South Carolina and its visitors with a balanced and comprehensive recreation system of public and private land and sites.
Goal 3:	To provide South Carolinians and visitors opportunities to understand and enjoy the State's historic and natural heritage.
Goal 4:	To provide to all segments of the population opportunities for outdoor recreation experiences and an improved quality of life.
Goal 5:	To encourage cooperative efforts between various agencies and levels of government, between private enterprise and government, and between volunteers and resource managers.
Goal 6:	To encourage sustainable development and give consideration to the local economic, social, and natural resource impacts resulting from the location and development of recreation areas.

SCPRT has continued to address the priority issues identified in the 2008 SCORP. A summary of accomplishments shows notable progress.

Continue the planning process for outdoor recreation – Numerous State and local plans related to outdoor recreation were continued, launched and/or completed in the five years since the last SCORP. Plan implementation was advanced for resources ranging from trails, river corridors and greenways to tourism and state parks. The 2008 SCORP was used to guide annual application requests for both the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails Program grants administered by SCPRT, with updates to the Open Project Selection Process as needed. Local governments and recreation districts were also encouraged to use the SCORP for guidance when creating their own local strategic or recreational plans and SCPRT staff participated in various planning meetings and charrettes around the state.

In 2009, SCPRT undertook for the first time the creation of a statewide tourism plan. The 2008 SCORP was one of the research tools used by the consultants for the South Carolina Tourism Action Plan. In addressing the needs of the less traveled areas of the state, the tourism plan encouraged local agencies to develop products

unique to their area, which in the rural areas often translated to developing nature-based recreational activities and connecting similar historic or cultural sites with literal and physical trails.

Rock Hill

The City of Rock Hill has established itself as a sports tourism destination, attracting regional and national tournaments to the LWCF assisted Manchester Meadows Soccer Park and the Cherry Park Baseball/Softball Complex. Its world-class Giordana Velodrome hosts national and UCI caliber cycling events. The City will even host the 2014 International Quidditch Championship! But the City also supports more leisurely outdoor activities through its Trails and Greenways Master Plan. The Catawba River Trail will eventually provide connectivity for the Carolina Thread Trail, which will wind through several South Carolina and North Carolina counties. Rock Hill has received Recreational Trails Program grant funding, along with funds from the Carolina Thread Trail and various other public and private organizations to extend and connect this trail throughout the city.



Provide a balanced recreational system of public and private lands – The provision of outdoor recreation in South Carolina has a long history of partnerships, cooperation and collaboration among public and private agencies and organizations to build, maintain, and promote recreation resources, and to implement existing plans. At the State level, SCPRT, SCDNR and a number of other stakeholders continued to be active participants in multiple hydroelectric re-licensing agreement processes including the Lake Murray/Saluda review with SCE&G and the Catawba/Lake Wateree review with Duke Progress to ensure that public open space is conserved, recreational resources are considered, and public access and use is maximized. Public and

private agencies and organizations have made substantial strides in the expansion of trail resources and protecting significant lands in South Carolina since 2008. The State's most comprehensive trail effort continues to be the expansion of the Palmetto Trail, which will eventually traverse the State and link the mountains to the sea. The Palmetto Conservation Foundation (PCF) – in partnership with Federal and State agencies, local governments, private foundations, corporations and private landowners – is coordinating the effort to extend the Trail through the construction of a series of defined passages. As of October 2013, the Palmetto Trail extends 315 miles, reaching almost 75% of the Trail's planned length of 425 miles.

Provide citizens and visitors opportunities to enjoy the State's historic and natural heritage – Since 2008, the SC Department of Transportation has worked with SCPRT, the SC Department of Agriculture, local/regional governments, and tourism groups to develop the Agritourism and Tourist Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) program. Launched in 2012, this is a destination signage program that provides directional highway signage denoting tourism (agricultural, historical, cultural or natural) sites in the rural areas of the state.

South Carolina has been working to increase its existing tourism base, which has enormous potential thanks to its diverse geography, temperate climate and wealth of attractions – both natural and man-made. South Carolina is renowned for its world-class golf destinations, Blue Ridge Mountains, 200 miles of pristine shoreline, spectacular state parks, national historic sites, cultural heritage, sports tourism and top-notch entertainment. In order to maximize the state's potential for tourism growth, SCPRT contracted with Tourism Development International (TDI) in 2008 to create a series of Product Development Area (PDA) plans. Based on the findings of the South Carolina Tourism Action Plan, the eight PDA plans identified potential tourism products in all 46 counties based on current and emerging visitor trends, input from local tourism industry members, and established best-practices in the tourism industry. These plans provide a comprehensive framework for tourism growth statewide, including both long-term and short-term goals for tourism product development.

Provide all segments of the population opportunities for outdoor recreation – Federal, State and local agencies and private organizations have worked diligently to maintain and improve existing parks and recreational facilities throughout the State since 2008. SCPRT maintained and improved 139 trails, totaling more than 350 miles, in its state park system. The Department also continues to make trails more accessible to physically-challenged users through surface improvements at the State Parks. The LWCF and RTP grant programs continue to encourage projects that create accessible facilities or refurbish facilities to be ADA compliant. This allows the State's growing senior population, as well as disabled veterans and other physically challenged citizens, equal access to recreational activities.

Local and regional recreation organizations also provided significant opportunities by maintaining and making improvements to a multitude of recreational facilities statewide. During the 2014 SCORP public hearings held around the state, the local recreation providers all noted that one of their current challenges was adapting existing facilities to the needs of new users, especially the growing senior population, as well as the Hispanic population.

Care is taken that all areas of the state, both urban and rural, can compete equally for SCPRT grants. As a result, the RTP and LWCF projects awarded since 2008 have been spread fairly evenly among all regions of the state. The *SC Conservation Bank Act* launched the State's first conservation land bank program for the purchase of land and easements in 2004. Since then, the Bank has provided more than \$108 million for the conservation of more than 198,000 acres of land, of which 7,029 acres were urban parks.

North Augusta

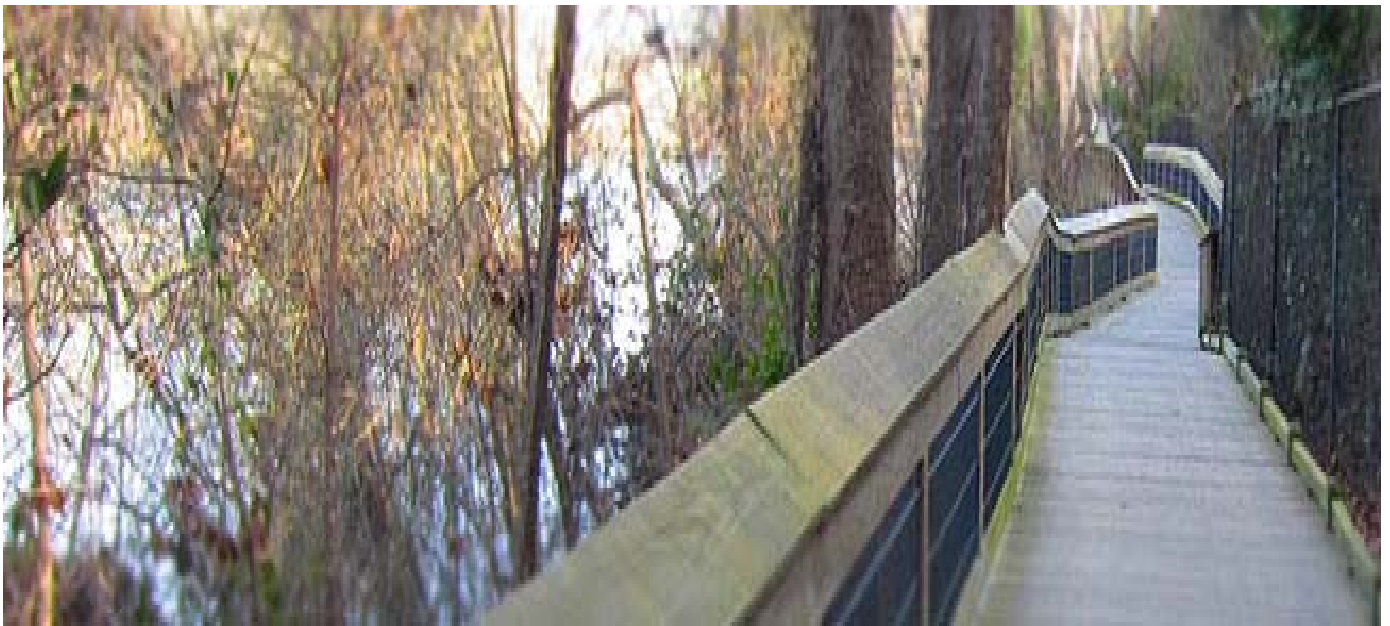
For many special needs children, a trip to the playground is a difficult experience because of getting on and off the equipment. So the City of North Augusta set out to build an adaptive playground that was inviting to children of all capabilities. In 2013 the dreams of many families within the City and the Central Savannah River Area Region became a reality with the assistance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund program. On any given afternoon you can feel the impact of the LWCF program by watching families, many driving over thirty minutes, assemble in the heart of the Riverview Park to watch their children achieve physical and social goals on a boundless playground. The LWCF program has fulfilled the dreams of many special needs children and families by providing a facility that everyone can appreciate.



Encourage cooperative efforts – Significant progress has been made by regional and local agencies and private organizations in acquiring lands for recreational use, neighborhood parks, and greenways. SCPRT teamed with diverse partners to advance land and water trail resources throughout the State. SCPRT, the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, and other groups continue to work toward the implementation of the *2002 SC State Trails Plan*. These joint efforts contributed to the expansion of the Palmetto Trail to 315 miles in length – almost 75% of the planned goal of 425 miles. The development of the East Coast Greenway Trail that will weave through the coastal counties of South Carolina also progressed with trail segments added in Horry, Georgetown, Charleston, and Beaufort Counties due to the efforts of the East Coast Greenway Association, local governments, SCPRT, and others. SCPRT also worked with the SC Foothills Trail and the SC Thread Trail partners. Recreational water resources were addressed as SCDNR, in concert with SCPRT, local advisory councils, and other stakeholders, implemented the goals and recommendations of a number of river management plans for key water resources including the *Ashley, Saluda, Black, Lynches, Reedy, and Catawba Rivers* to promote and enhance recreational access. In the area of tourism, SCPRT continues to promote the regional PDA plans to grow tourism, encouraging multi-regional cooperation for the creation of state-wide trails, which emphasize the State’s natural, cultural and recreational resources.

Cayce Riverwalk

The Cayce Riverwalk opens the banks of the Congaree River for walking, jogging, bicycling, and just gazing at the natural beauty. Located along the Congaree River, which runs between the cities of Columbia and Cayce, the Cayce Riverwalk has 2.5 miles of lighted pathways and wooden boardwalks. It has scenic overlooks on the river and waterfalls, with seating and covered and uncovered picnic areas. Part of the larger Three Rivers Greenway, the Cayce Riverwalk was designed with conservation and preservation in mind, protecting the environmental quality of this unique area and preserving our collective cultural legacy. The 46 acre Riverwalk Park has restroom facilities, convenient parking and the entire park is ADA accessible. This multi-phase project has received several Recreational Trails Program grants funded through SCPRT, as well as assistance from the SC Department of Transportation and the SC Department of Natural Resources.





White Tract

Located in the northwestern corner of the State, South Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains make up only two percent of the State's geography, but provide some of the most unique habitats and vistas in the Southeast. The escarpment contains significant plant and animal species and has the potential for exceptional outdoor recreational experiences, so when an opportunity arises to purchase "mountain property" for conservation, every effort is made to make it a reality.

In 2012, the 191 acre White Tract in northern Greenville County became available for public ownership. The property, dominated by hardwoods and hemlocks and a little known waterfall, is a great example of a Southern Blue Ridge Mountain forest and is situated not far from Jones Gap State Park. The State Park Service proposed to expand existing hiking trails in Jones Gap to connect to the White Tract, and to work long term towards adding access points into the area, as the current access points were often overcrowded. All of this was contingent upon raising approximately \$1 million to acquire the White Tract and adjacent tracts. The South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism applied for a \$250,000 LWCF grant. Once the LWCF grant was awarded, it became the basis for a fundraising campaign with the Nature Conservancy that raised enough money to purchase the properties. The credibility, reputation and funding of the LWCF was the foundation that made possible the dream of acquiring part of the Blue Ridge Escarpment for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

Encourage sustainable development – SCPRT, through the State Park Service, continued to implement components of the State Parks Strategic Plan 2020 Vision, by implementing energy savings initiatives statewide that impact outdoor recreation facilities and visitor and employee attitudes. From tankless water heaters to improved windows and insulation, the State Park Service has implemented stewardship programs during the last five years. In addition, sustainable building practices have resulted in a “greener” infrastructure in State Parks,



including two LEED certified building. SCPRT is proud that the LEED facility at Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site achieved Gold Certification. State Parks, working in cooperation with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, has also introduced a statewide recycling program at all 47 state parks, not only providing recycling containers but adding additional programming to encourage visitors to reduce, reuse and recycle.

It should be noted that during the period of the last SCORP - 2008 through 2012 – South Carolina experienced record unemployment, unprecedented budget cuts, and staff reductions at the state level. Cuts at the state level were mirrored in counties and municipalities as a result of reductions in the State’s aid to local subdivisions. Already serious problems with deferred maintenance and aging infrastructure in the State’s many parks and recreation facilities were only compounded and new projects were delayed or down-sized. As South Carolina recovers, State and local governments are learning to live with the new economic realities of reduced government funding and are adjusting their priorities accordingly. This means appreciating the existing facilities and working to maintain and repurpose them instead of always building new facilities. Recreation professionals throughout the State

recognize the need to address these issues now in the 2014 SCORP or be faced with almost insurmountable problems five to ten years down the road.

Sustainable Development: The Issue of Deferred Maintenance

Deferred maintenance continues to be a major concern for park and recreation departments across South Carolina. Deferred maintenance is usually defined as the inability to address the major repair and/or the restoration or reuse of facilities or building components that have reached the end of their useful life. During the recent economic downturn, the on-going problem of deferred maintenance was further compounded when choices and priorities shifted because of budget cuts and staff reductions. Even in good times, routine maintenance is often deferred in order to meet more pressing fiscal requirements. During the “Great Recession” this practice intensified, resulting in an increase of deferred maintenance for many facilities. Park and recreation providers continue to struggle with prioritizing limited funds between basic operations and deferred maintenance. The flexibility to utilize LWCF as a resource to address deferred maintenance and as a tool to repurpose facilities is an exciting option for park and recreation professionals.

Deferred Maintenance in State Parks

The South Carolina State Park System includes over 160 miles of roads and 1,500 public-use facilities, many of which were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. While the State Park Service strives to maintain these facilities through routine maintenance and repair, deterioration due to the age of these structures, climate, other natural elements, and the high volume of use often outpaces the maintenance efforts. In addition, many of the State Parks’ maintenance needs – such as road repair or repaving – are large-scale projects that involve equipment and workforce capacity beyond the scope of the State Park Service. While in recent years the State Park Service has utilized increased revenue and self-sufficiency to address some of these needs, the financial requirements of many of these projects outstrip the gains in revenue.

Deferred maintenance needs can be divided into different categories based on the project type and potential outcome: facility enhancements that would increase or protect the revenue stream that has become so vital to the funding of the State Park system; traditional infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water, sewer and electrical service; and facility upgrades and maintenance. The current cost to address the existing deferred maintenance projects in the 47 SC State Parks is \$171 million. Bottom line, the figure is overwhelming and does not discriminate based on the size, location or prominence of the park. Examples of deferred maintenance projects in three SC State Parks are provided on the following page.



Table 11. Deferred Maintenance Projects

Myrtle Beach State Park	
Replumb & 50 amp service upgrade in camping area	\$ 1,000,000
Repair & Repave all Roads	\$ 1,000,000
Upgrade sewer pumps, tanks and lines	\$ 1,000,000
Pier improvements	\$ 500,000
Restroom upgrade / replacement	\$ 1,000,000
Support structures	\$ 750,000
Trail Work & Rehab/Replace Bridge	\$ 150,000
Parking Lot Improvements	\$ 1,000,000
Cabin Stabilization	\$ 175,000
Water System Upgrades	\$ 150,000
Pond Restoration	\$ 75,000
	\$ 6,800,000
Little Pee Dee State Park	
Repair & Repave all Roads	\$ 675,000
Replumb & 50 amp service upgrade in camping area	\$ 100,000
Dredging of Lake Norton	\$ 100,000
Replace campground bathroom	\$ 250,000
	\$ 1,125,000
Table Rock State Park	
Sewer upgrades	\$ 750,000
Replumb & 50 amp service upgrade/site improvements	\$ 600,000
Repair & Repave all Roads/campground	\$ 1,500,000
Lake dredge / improvements	\$ 50,000
Trail Work & Rehab	\$ 500,000
Camp Oolenoy stabilization	\$ 250,000
Support Facilities	\$ 250,000
Nature Center/Trailhead	\$ 750,000
Bathhouse Stabilization/Preservation	\$ 150,000
Water System Improvements	\$ 150,000
West Gate Fee Booth Renovation	\$ 50,000
Campground Restroom Renovation (4)	\$ 100,000
Day Use Restroom Renovation	\$ 25,000
	\$ 5,125,000

PART IV: STATE OUTDOOR RECREATION GOALS

The guiding goals for the *2014 South Carolina State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* are derived from a combination of overlapping state and local outdoor recreation planning goals.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM MISSION AND GOALS

South Carolina is blessed with an abundance of natural and man-made resources – historic cities that attract visitors from all over the world, pristine beaches that stretch uninterrupted for miles, small towns that offer a unique glimpse into days gone by, black water rivers for a peaceful day of kayaking or canoeing and spectacular golf courses that wow the avid amateur and challenge the best touring pros. These assets and more have helped fuel a year-round tourism business and transform the tourism sector into an economic powerhouse that now ranks as the State’s number one industry. To advance the effort anticipated by the General Assembly when it created the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism in 1967, the agency has articulated the following mission and vision.

SCPRT Mission

Growing South Carolina’s economy by fostering sustainable tourism economic development and effectively marketing our state to increase visitation and improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.

SCPRT Vision

Grow the state. (The economy, jobs, and the product base.)
Enhance the authentic experiences. (Remain true to what makes South Carolina special.)
Sustain the resources. (Protect and preserve.)
Lead the way.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN GOALS

The general outdoor recreation goals of the *2014 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* are to promote healthy lifestyles and communities, conserve South Carolina’s rich natural and recreational resources, and contribute to the State’s economic well-being and quality of life:

SCORP Goal 1: Promote Healthy lifestyles and communities - Outdoor recreation, parks, and their associated amenities help keep South Carolinians and their communities fit and healthy. While the connection between health and outdoor recreation seems apparent, public health professionals and outdoor recreation providers have not always coordinated their efforts. South Carolina remains one of the top ten most obese states in the country. In 1996, South Carolina had a combined obesity and overweight rate of 51.4%. In 2001, it was 57.4%. Now, the combined rate is 66.4%. Parks build healthy communities by creating stable neighborhoods and strengthening community development. We have not only the opportunity to impact the overall health of our state, but an obligation.

- Action 1: Work with the SC Medical Association's Task Force on Childhood Obesity to advance healthy lifestyles and encourage use of state and local outdoor recreation sites for exercise.
- Action 2: Encourage collaboration with local health providers and hospitals to create programs and activities in parks and outdoor recreation areas promoting healthy lifestyles and exercise.
- Action 3: Establish, provide or improve outdoor recreation facilities to enable greater accessibility by multiple age groups and persons with disabilities.
- Action 4: Encourage the development of outdoor recreation facilities near where people work and live and explore ways to connect existing facilities for pedestrians and bikers.
- Action 5: Create, improve and expand on a statewide network of trails for a variety of users and experiences.

SCORP Goal 2:

Stewardship of Resources - Conserving South Carolina's natural and recreational resources will be a vital component of outdoor recreation planning for the next decade. The state's "green infrastructure" not only protects the physical characteristics of South Carolina's unique diversity of natural resources, but if utilized correctly, can be a critical building block for communities and sustained economic growth. As the new economic realities have demonstrated, funding for new recreational projects remains tight, demanding that communities take care of their existing facilities and adapt them as necessary to meet the needs of changing demographics and recreational trends. As South Carolina's population continues to increase and grow more diverse, the conservation of the State's recreational resources becomes an important component of the successful formula for both sustained economic growth and a quality of life desired by our citizens.

- Action 1: Continue to collaborate with other State agencies, and public and private partners to protect and conserve South Carolina's natural, cultural and recreational resources.
- Action 2: Target the special defining resources of the State to protect for public recreation, including the Blue Ridge Escarpment and the state's many waterways.
- Action 3: Make the major rehabilitation of existing parks and recreational facilities an additional priority for funding through SCPRT's grant programs.
- Action 4: Recognize how the changing demographics of the State are affecting recreational preferences and repurpose existing facilities to enhance their use by new groups.
- Action 5: Collaborate with the appropriate State and Federal agencies to improve access to and utilization of existing public lands for outdoor recreation.

SCORP Goal 3:

Sustained Economic Benefits - The economic benefits of outdoor recreation in South Carolina are significant. By utilizing and leveraging the state's outdoor recreation resources and attractions, we can promote tourism and create jobs that contribute millions of dollars to the State's economy. Perhaps the greatest value of parks, recreational lands and their amenities lies in their ability to attract and keep citizens, entrepreneurs, businesses, and the growing number of retirees who locate for quality of life reasons.

- Action 1: Promote the State Park System to enhance the benefits of tourism and serve as a catalyst for other economic opportunities, especially in the rural areas of the State.
- Action 2: Market the State's natural, cultural and recreational resources as an economic driver.
- Action 3: Encourage small business and eco-tourism opportunities to enhance local economic development, and to fulfill unmet outdoor recreational needs.
- Action 4: Coordinate major outdoor recreation initiatives to foster collaboration and cooperation among communities and reduce the duplication of activities and services.
- Action 5: Give priority to projects that enhance outdoor recreation activities that showcase unique assets of a community.

In addition to establishing these goals, the 2014 SCORP is designed to guide the use of LWCF funds in providing for the maintenance and repurposing of outdoor recreational facilities. It is the intent of SCPRT that the 2014 SCORP will be used from the grassroots upwards by recreation professionals to affect policy at all levels regarding outdoor recreation in South Carolina. Advancing these SCORP objectives will educate policy makers on the value of outdoor recreation for community health, livability, resource preservation and economic vitality.



PART V. SCORP PLANNING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is updated and prepared for publication and distribution on a five-year cycle. Implementation of the Plan is considered a continuous process. The process employed to develop the 2014 South Carolina SCORP is defined by an inclusive and participatory planning process that is grounded in agency involvement and in public participation.

SCPRT invited local and county recreation organizations to one of three forums (Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville) hosted across the state to solicit their input. The main discussion concerned the three goals proposed in the 2014 SCORP plan. Across the board there was acceptance of the goals. In addition, the local and county organizations generally accepted the directions that SCPRT proposed. Many of these organizations indicated that they would like to use the Plan in their soliciting resources from their respective boards and councils.

At the request of SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the Institute for Public Service and Policy Research conducted a mail survey of outdoor recreation professionals. The main findings from this survey are as follows. Priorities as well as critical needs for the respondents focused on acquiring land either through partnerships or independently for open spaces and future expansions; developing new and/or connecting existing bike, hiking, and through-way trails, and providing funding for ongoing maintenance and infrastructure. Respondents believed that in the next five years recreation trends would focus on water access and sports such as paddle boarding and kayaking, bike and hiking trails, and quality facilities that offer multi-generational activities at the same time. Most of the participants did have cooperative relationships with other local, county, State and/or Federal agencies. However, they agreed that increased communication, funding sources that require collaboration, and reduced liability when sharing resources would assist in increasing cooperation. All of the respondents agreed that they could use the assistance of SCPRT in repurposing obsolete LWCF parks for different uses, and that SCPRT should use the annual SC Recreational and Parks Association Conference for updates and input to the SCORP.

SCPRT invited the public to a briefing on the three goals and to solicit their input. In April and May of 2013, SCPRT conducted a series of six statewide public hearings held in strategic locations throughout the State. Different times and locations were used to increase accessibility of the meetings. These hearings were held in Rock Hill, Greenville, Charleston, Columbia, Conway, and Bluffton. News releases were sent to local media around the State and direct mail notification was made to representatives of local park and recreation departments, Councils of Government, and State and Federal agencies. Input was received concerning the three priorities.

SCPRT staff and consultants from the Institute for Public Service and Policy Research at the University of South Carolina completed the draft plan. Notifications were disseminated to individuals who attended workshops and the numerous State, Federal, and local agencies and other organizations about availability of the draft for review and comment. The draft was also posted for review on the SCPRT website and public comment was solicited through SCPRT's social media pages.

After receipt of comments, edits were made as needed and the final plan was developed, printed, and distributed to interested parties. The plan was forwarded to the National Park Service for acceptance as the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. It was also posted on the Department's website at www.scpert.com.

Plan implementation will be accomplished through the multiple agencies and organizations. The Plan will act as a guideline for local and county recreational organizations as they make critical decisions on the allocation of resources. The SC State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan will be updated in five years, though South Carolina supports the national movement to change the SCORP planning process to ten years.



PART VI. SCORP ACTION PLAN

The 2014 SCORP Implementation Program is a call to action for all recreational related agencies within the State of South Carolina to help address the needs of its citizens, especially those struggling to maintain a healthy life style. The State has the opportunity to come together to address this life threatening health issue. It will not be easy given the trend for the past decade, but it is possible.

In order to complete this mission, the State will need to be in close communication with other Federal, State, and local users to develop a dialogue and plans as to how recreational funds can best be utilized. This will require education by the State as to the possible strategies that can be used. It will be incumbent on the State to form partnerships and to work in cooperation with providers as to what each can do within their jurisdictions to address the priorities of the 2014 SCORP.

SCPRT's challenge is to develop a vision that can be communicated to providers that will engage them to view their local resources in a new light, one focusing not only on the general public but on how they can reach out to the public that struggles with their weight. The SCORP provides a broad outline that encourages local providers to use the Plan as the basis for their own funding decisions. SCPRT will be interacting with local providers both around funding and discussions that will lead to broader cooperation among local providers. It is clear that the general public does not generally recognize who is the provider of the recreational services, but instead is seeking opportunities for recreation. It is incumbent upon the local providers to examine their offerings as well as those of their neighbors to develop a more complete picture of recreational opportunities for the citizens of South Carolina.

It was apparent in the meetings with local providers that they would like the SCORP to serve as the blueprint for the State. They would like to take the plan to their policy makers and board members to set priorities for their organizations. They would prefer that SCPRT focus on planning, coordination, and education as to the needs of the citizens and they can then focus on the provision of services and opportunities to address these needs.

A. FUTURE NEEDS

The general guiding principles for outdoor recreation policy and planning in South Carolina for the next five years are summarized in the following chart.

Chart 3. Outdoor Recreation Guiding Policy and Planning Principles

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Inform and educate the Federal, State, and local agencies as to PRT's vision and goals of the SCORP.➤ Encourage recreation providers from across the state to embrace the SCORP goals.➤ Provide and/or support forums for recreational partners to explore different strategies to address the goals of SCORP as well as coordinate resources to provide a more complete recreational picture to the public.➤ Address the continued transition of traditional funding streams and identify alternative funding sources and resource development opportunities with an increased emphasis on interagency collaboration and public-private partnerships to maximize limited resources. |
|---|

- Seek and pursue windows of opportunity such as cost-sharing, partnerships, land donations, bargain sales, and perpetual easements when possible.
- Incorporate related needs and strategies from other agency and organization planning processes and implement recommendations from other existing studies and plans.
- Encourage Federal action on issues of national concern.



Realization of the SCORP goals and implementation strategies will be shaped by these general guidelines and affected by a number of environmental challenges and opportunities. These external trends include: the continued transition and decline of traditional funding streams and the need to identify alternative funding sources and resource development strategies; an increased emphasis on interagency collaboration, public-private partnerships, volunteer involvement to maximize limited resources; and continued population growth and development in South Carolina that is accompanied by an increased demand for expanded recreational opportunities, additional demand on existing recreational resources, and growing development pressure on existing and potential natural and cultural resources.

Table 11. SCORP Acronyms

ACE:	Ashepoo-Combahee-Edisto Rivers
AGO:	America's Great Outdoors
BMI:	Body Mass index
CDC:	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CLG:	Certified Local Government
CWCS:	Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
FERC:	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GSP:	Gross State Product
ISTEA:	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
LWCF:	Land and Water Conservation Fund (Federal)
MAP-21:	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 st Century Act
MSA:	Metropolitan Statistical Area
PARD:	Parks and Recreation Development Fund (State)
PCF:	Palmetto Conservation Foundation
PDA:	Product Development Area
RTP:	Recreational Trails Program Fund (Federal)
SCDA:	South Carolina Department of Agriculture
SCDHEC:	South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
SCDNR:	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
SCDOT:	South Carolina Department of Transportation
SCE&G:	South Carolina Electric and Gas Company
SCORP:	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SCPRT:	South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
SMARI:	Strategic Marketing & Research, Inc.
TAP:	Transportation Alternatives Program
TDI:	Tourism Development International
TE:	Transportation Enhancements
TODS:	Agritourism and Tourist Oriented Directional Signage Program
WMA:	Wildlife Management Area



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